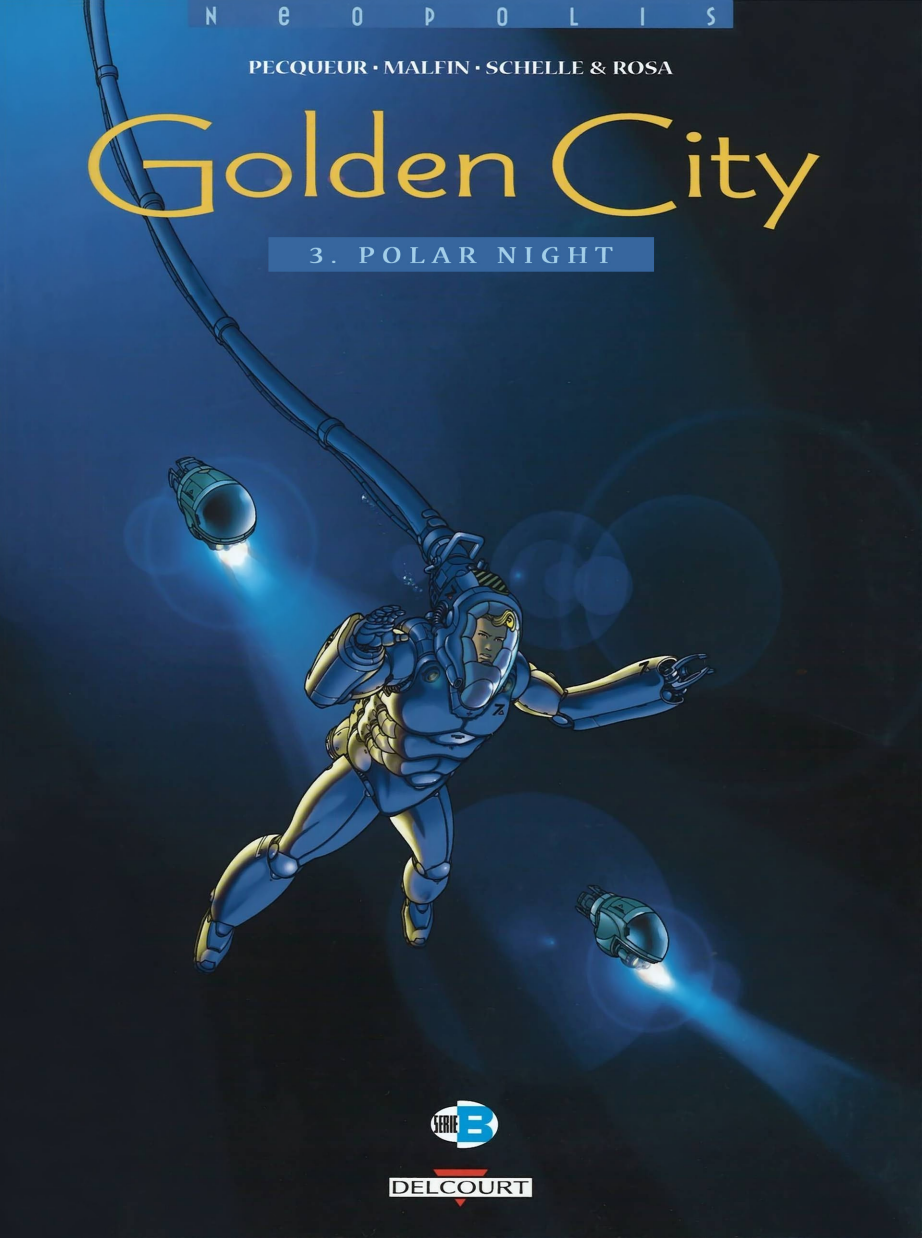
NEOPOLIS

PECQUEUR · MALFIN · SCHELLE & ROSA

Golden City

3. POLAR NIGHT



SERIE B

DELCOURT

Golden City

3. POLAR NIGHT

Story
Daniel PECQUEUR

Art
Nicolas MALFIN

Colors
Pierre SCHELLE & Stéphane ROSA

Translation
ALICE

DELCOURT

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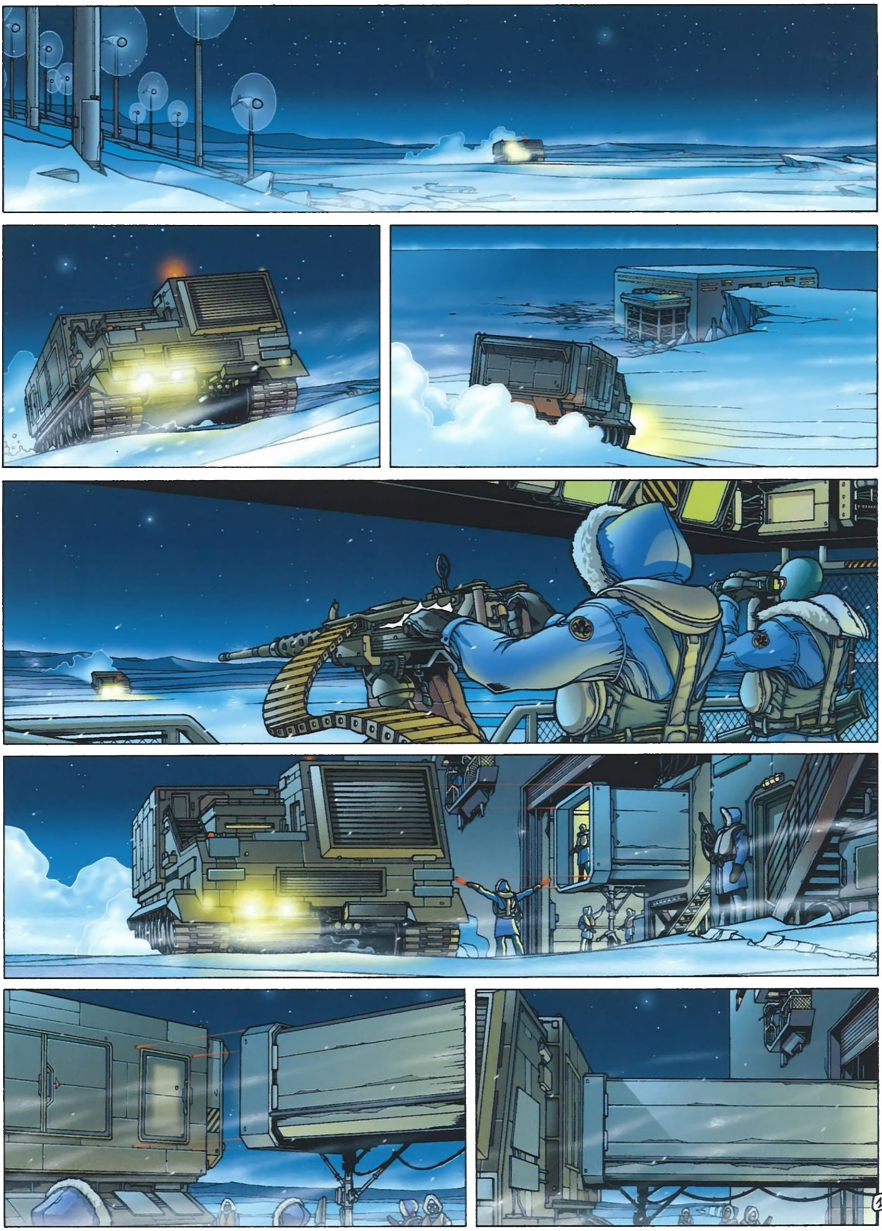
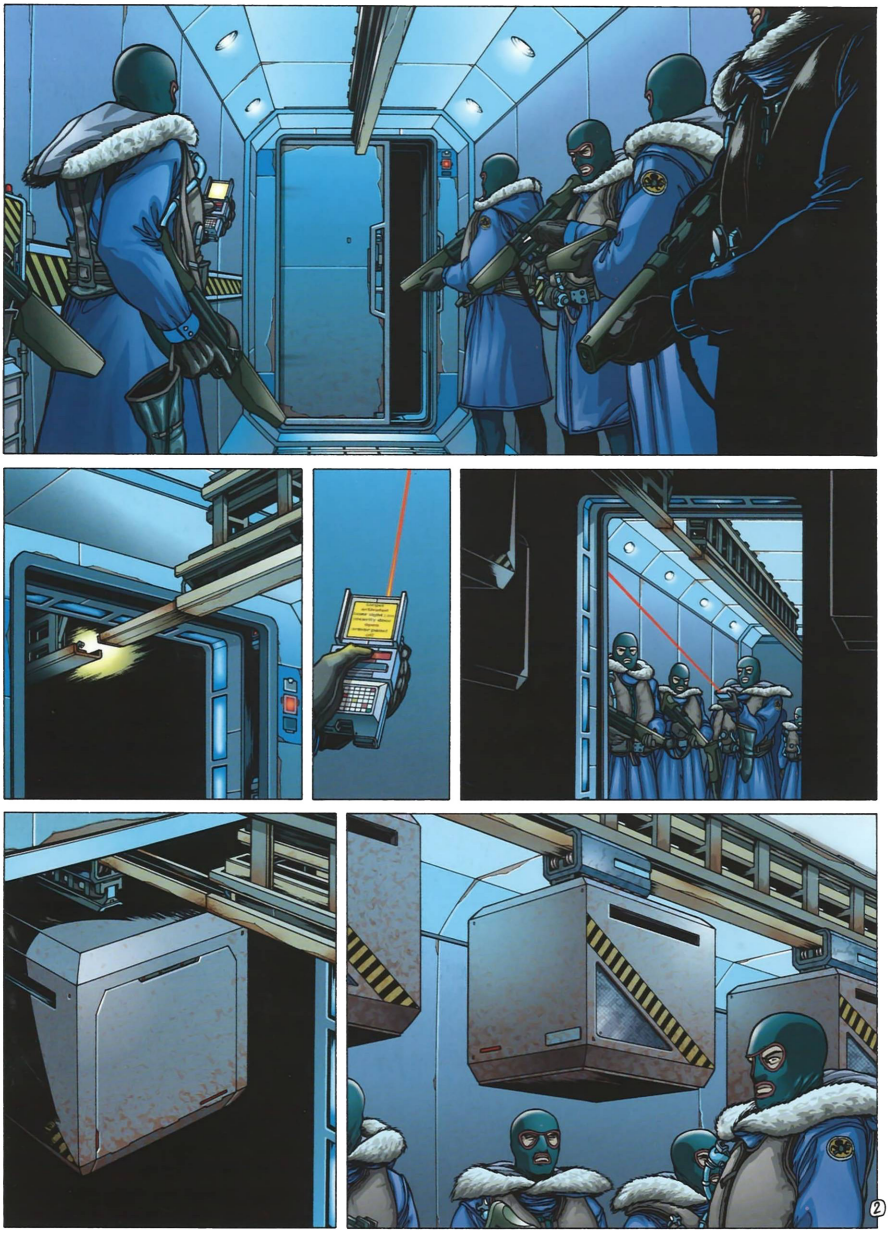
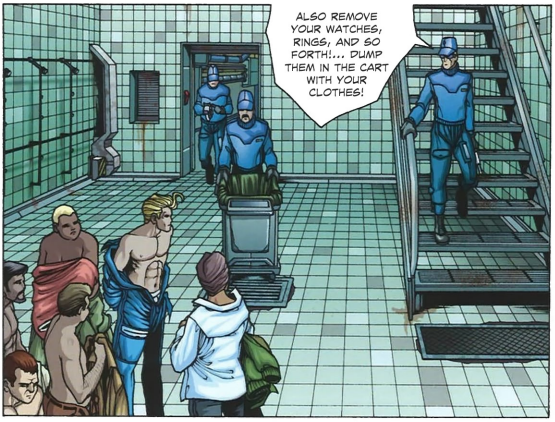
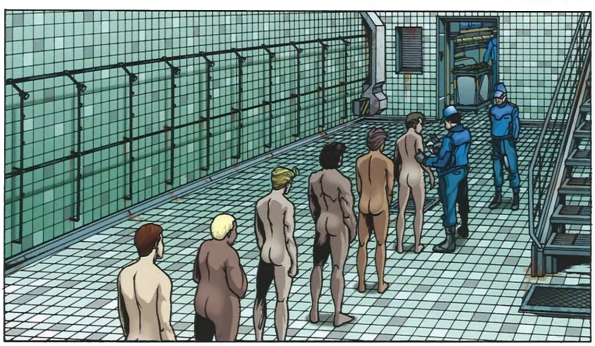




?!
!!
STRIP DOWN, ALL OF YOU!


ALSO REMOVE YOUR WATCHES, RINGS, AND SO FORTH!... PUMP THEM IN THE CART WITH YOUR CLOTHES!

NOW LINE UP FACING ME!... FASTER THAN THAT!... MOVE YOUR ASSES!



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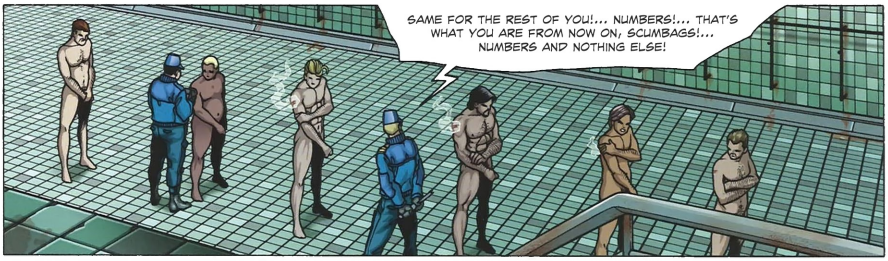
TELL ME WHO YOU ARE.
RUSTY WALLACE.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR NAME, MORON; I ASKED WHO YOU ARE!... DROP YOUR EYES WHEN I TALK TO YOU!

HERE, YOU'RE NOTHING!... YOU'RE NO ONE!... YOU HAVE NO NAME, NO IDENTITY!... YOU'RE ONLY A NUMBER: THE ONE WE'VE JUST TATTOOED ON YOU!... YOU GOT THAT, YOU SON OF A BITCH?... AS OF NOW, YOU ARE 990317!


SAME FOR THE REST OF YOU!... NUMBERS!... THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE FROM NOW ON, SCUMBAGS!... NUMBERS AND NOTHING ELSE!

WHY DID YOU KEEP THAT?... I TOLD YOU TO TAKE EVERYTHING OFF!
IT WAS A GIFT FROM MY GIRL.

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT!

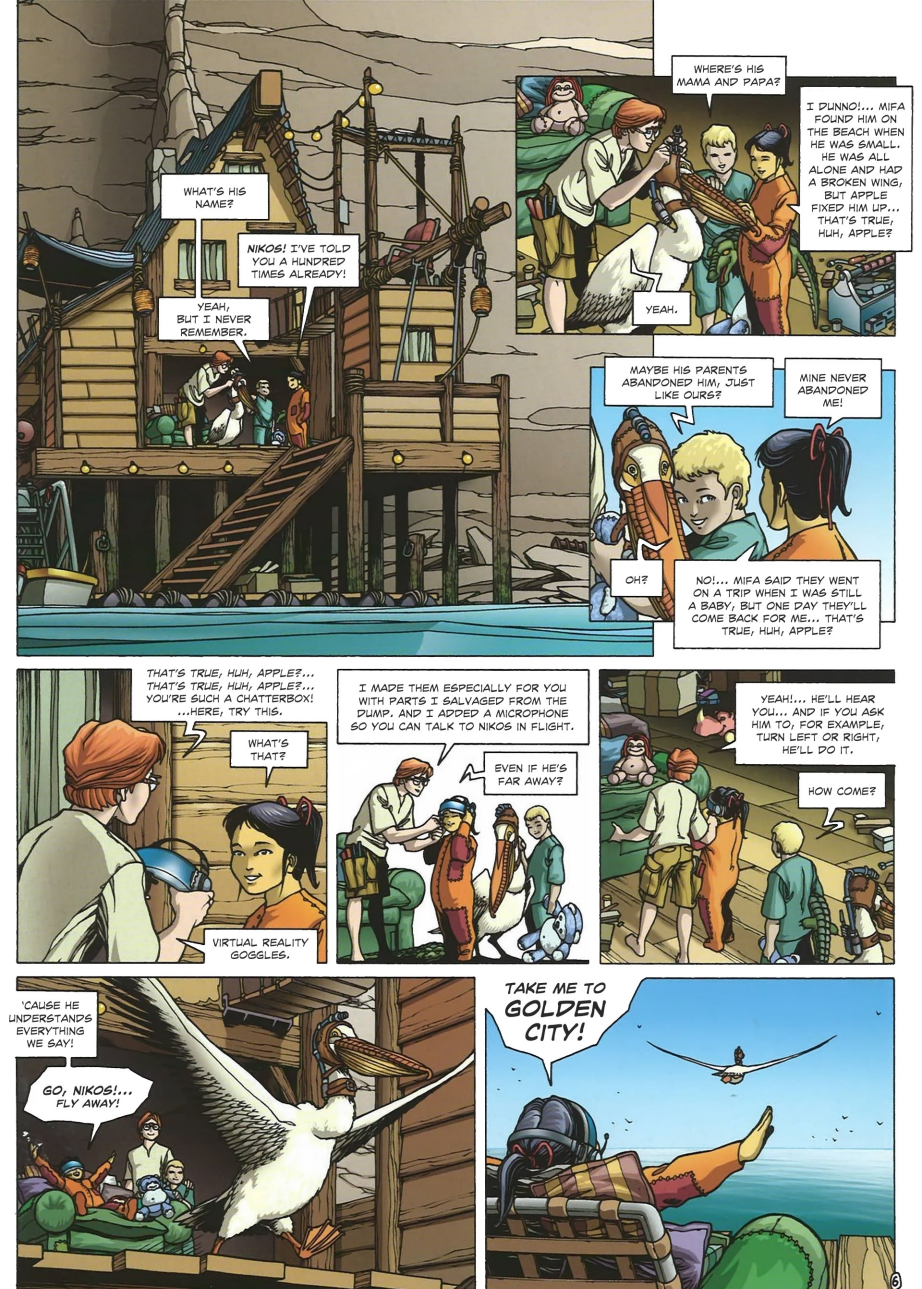
AAAAHHH
QUIT CRYING LIKE A BITCH!... GET UP!

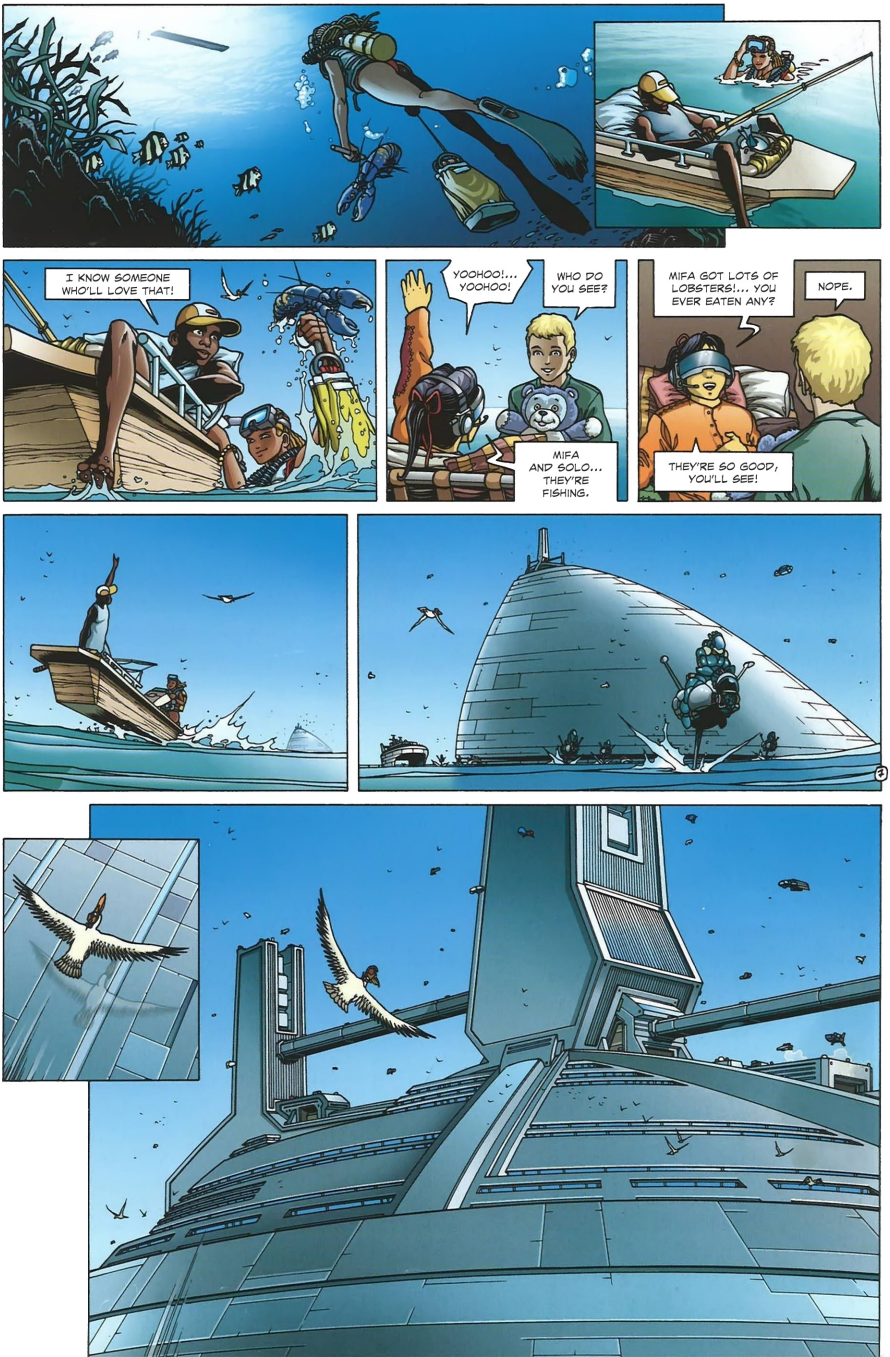
BACK IN LINE, YOU!... LET HIM SORT HIMSELF OUT!

YOU HEAR ME?!
AARH

TATTOOS ARE DONE, SIR... WE CAN PROCEED TO CLEANSING...

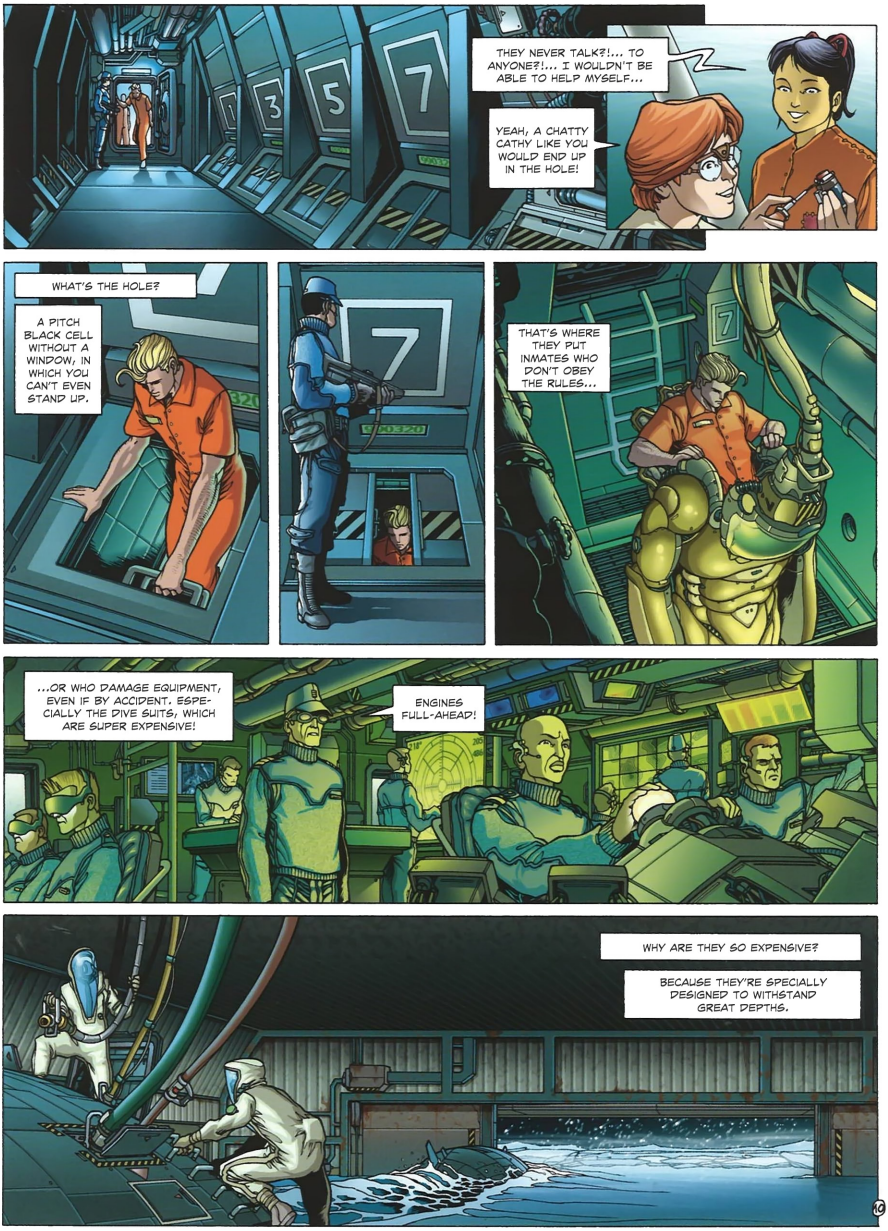
OK!... GO AHEAD!

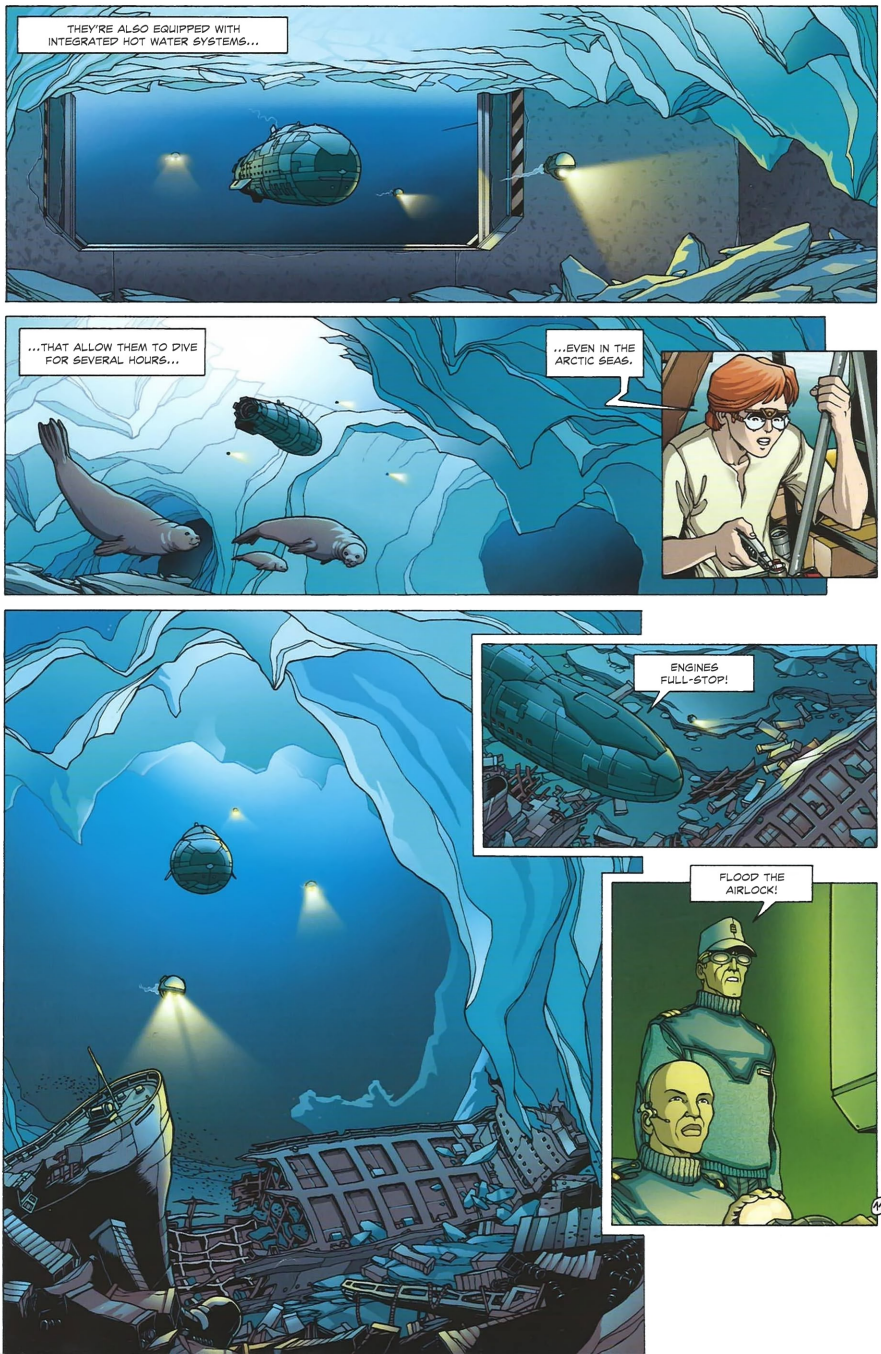

WHERE'S HIS MAMA AND PAPA?
I DUNNO!... MIFA FOUND HIM ON THE BEACH WHEN HE WAS SMALL. HE WAS ALL ALONE AND HAD A BROKEN WING, BUT APPLE FIXED HIM UP... THAT'S TRUE, HUH, APPLE?
YEAH.
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
NIKOS! I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES ALREADY!
YEAH, BUT I NEVER REMEMBER.
MAYBE HIS PARENTS ABANDONED HIM, JUST LIKE OURS?
MINE NEVER ABANDONED ME!
OH?
NO!... MIFA SAID THEY WENT ON A TRIP WHEN I WAS STILL A BABY, BUT ONE DAY THEY'LL COME BACK FOR ME... THAT'S TRUE, HUH, APPLE?
THAT'S TRUE, HUH, APPLE?... THAT'S TRUE, HUH, APPLE?... YOU'RE SUCH A CHATTERBOX! ...HERE, TRY THIS.
WHAT'S THAT?
VIRTUAL REALITY GOGGLES.
I MADE THEM ESPECIALLY FOR YOU WITH PARTS I SALVAGED FROM THE DUMP. AND I ADDED A MICROPHONE SO YOU CAN TALK TO NIKOS IN FLIGHT.
EVEN IF HE'S FAR AWAY?
YEAH!... HE'LL HEAR YOU... AND IF YOU ASK HIM TO, FOR EXAMPLE, TURN LEFT OR RIGHT, HE'LL DO IT.
HOW COME?
'CAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING WE SAY!
GO, NIKOS!... FLY AWAY!
TAKE ME TO GOLDEN CITY!


I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'LL LOVE THAT!
YOOHOO!... YOOHOO!
WHO DO YOU SEE?
MIFA AND SOLO... THEY'RE FISHING.
MIFA GOT LOTS OF LOBSTERS!... YOU EVER EATEN ANY?
NOPE.
THEY'RE SO GOOD, YOU'LL SEE!

WOOoooW!...
IT'S EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I THOUGHT!
HEY! IT'S THAT MAN!
WHAT MAN?
YOU KNOW, THE ONE WHO SAVED MY LIFE... I JUST SAW HIM!
LIAR!

BUT I DID!... HE WAS WITH A BLONDE LADY AND THEY WENT INTO AN APARTMENT!
YOU'RE WRONG... IT CAN'T BE HIM, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
HOW COME?
HE'S BEEN IN JAIL FOR SIX MONTHS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
THEY SAID SO ON TV. HE WAS SENTENCED TO HARD LABOR FOR LIFE, AND SHIPPED OFF TO A DISCIPLINARY PRISON.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?...
IT MEANS EVERYTHING IS FORBIDDEN: TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, TV, RADIO, MUSIC, BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS... ALL OF IT!
THE PRISONERS AREN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO RECEIVE CALLS, MAIL, OR VISITORS...
...OR TO TALK TO EACH OTHER!

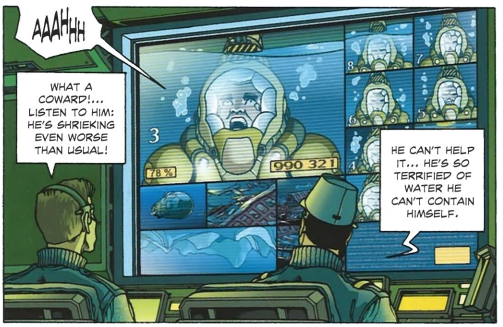

THEY NEVER TALK?!... TO ANYONE?!... I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HELP MYSELF...
YEAH, A CHATTY CATHY LIKE YOU WOULD END UP IN THE HOLE!
WHAT'S THE HOLE?
A PITCH BLACK CELL WITHOUT A WINDOW, IN WHICH YOU CAN'T EVEN STAND UP.
THAT'S WHERE THEY PUT INMATES WHO DON'T OBEY THE RULES...
...OR WHO DAMAGE EQUIPMENT, EVEN IF BY ACCIDENT. ESPECIALLY THE DIVE SUITS, WHICH ARE SUPER EXPENSIVE!
ENGINES FULL-AHEAD!
WHY ARE THEY SO EXPENSIVE?
BECAUSE THEY'RE SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND GREAT DEPTHS.


THEY'RE ALSO EQUIPPED WITH INTEGRATED HOT WATER SYSTEMS...
...THAT ALLOW THEM TO DIVE FOR SEVERAL HOURS...
...EVEN IN THE ARCTIC SEAS.
ENGINES FULL-STOP!
FLOOD THE AIRLOCK!

7

5

AAHH
3


AAAHHH
WHAT A COWARD!... LISTEN TO HIM: HE'S SHRIEKING EVEN WORSE THAN USUAL!
HE CAN'T HELP IT... HE'S SO TERRIFIED OF WATER HE CAN'T CONTAIN HIMSELF.
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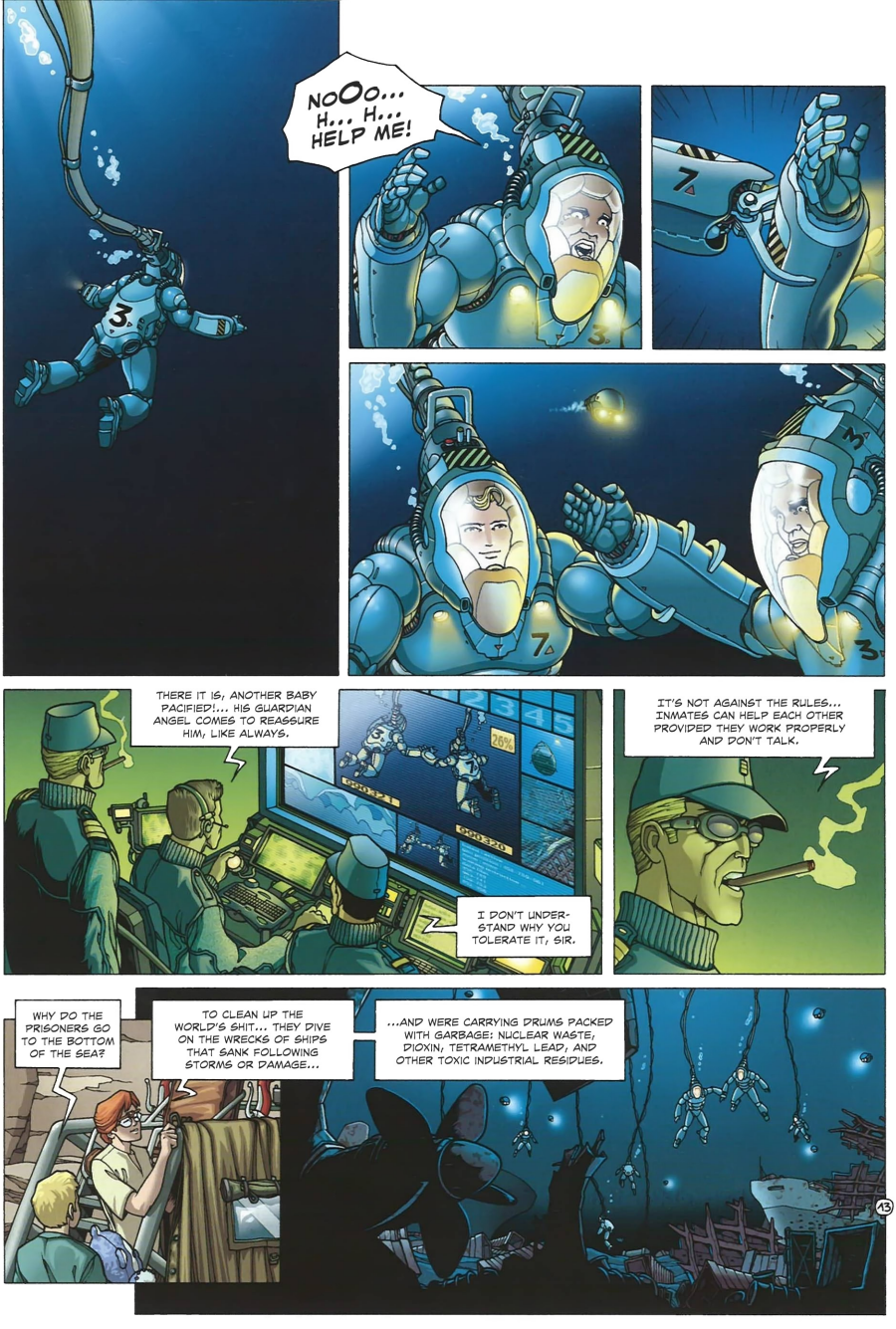
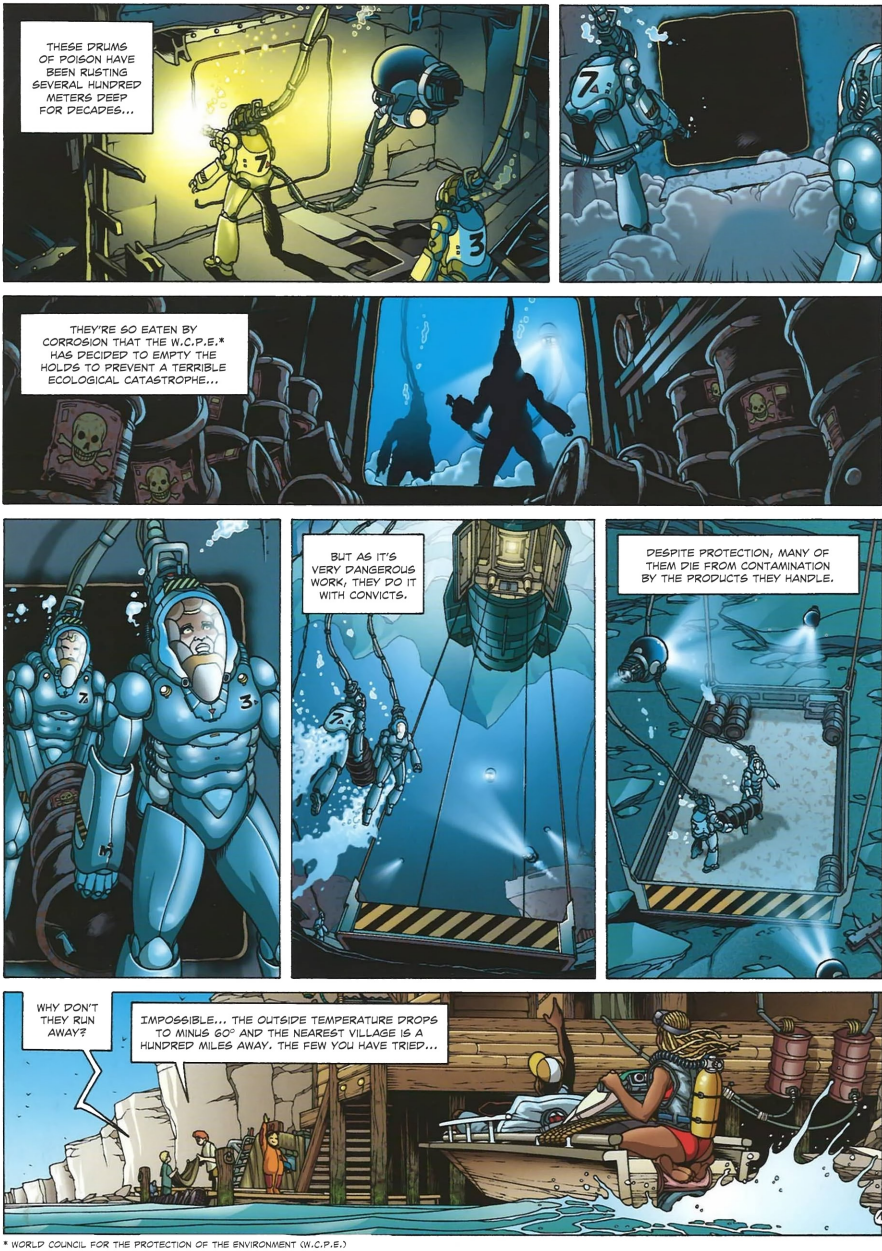
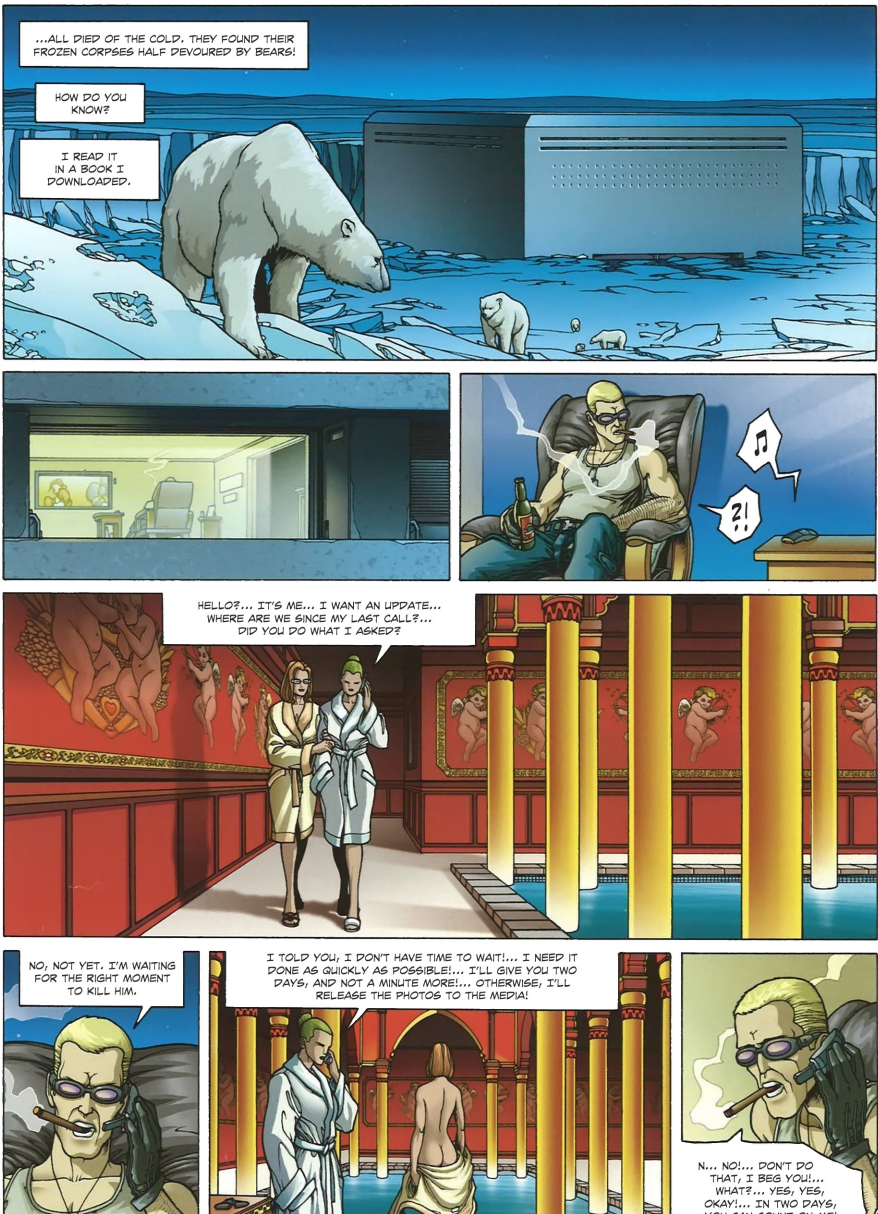
OPEN THE AIRLOCK AND LAUNCH THE RECON DRONES!

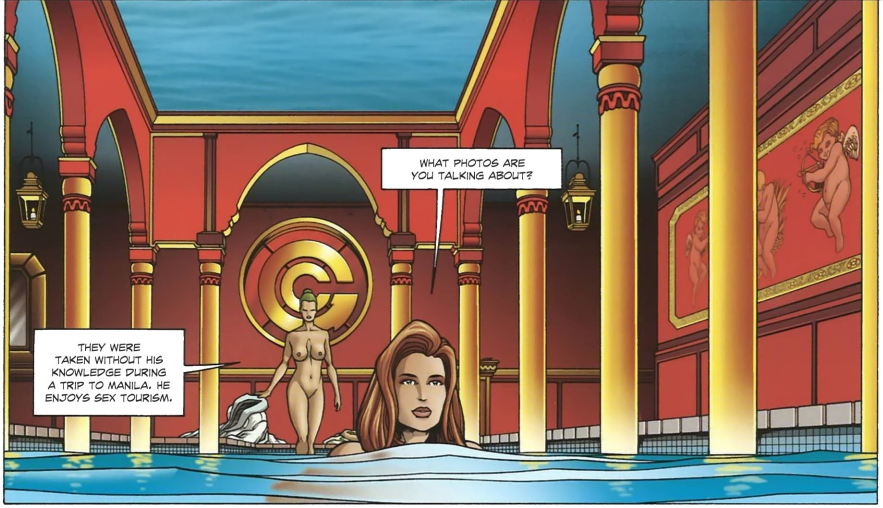
12

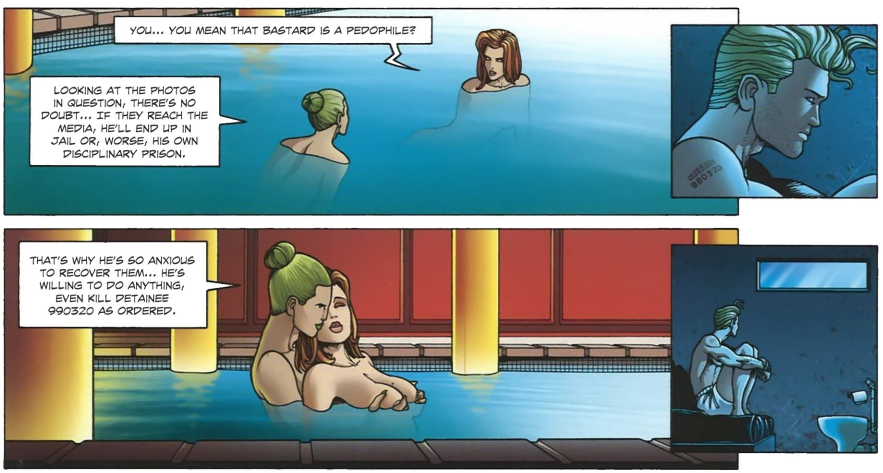

NOOO... H... H... HELP ME!
THERE IT IS; ANOTHER BABY PACIFIED!... HIS GUARDIAN ANGEL COMES TO REASSURE HIM, LIKE ALWAYS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU TOLERATE IT, SIR.
IT'S NOT AGAINST THE RULES... INMATES CAN HELP EACH OTHER PROVIDED THEY WORK PROPERLY AND DON'T TALK.
WHY DO THE PRISONERS GO TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA?
TO CLEAN UP THE WORLD'S SHIT... THEY DIVE ON THE WRECKS OF SHIPS THAT SANK FOLLOWING STORMS OR DAMAGE...
...AND WERE CARRYING DRUMS PACKED WITH GARBAGE: NUCLEAR WASTE, DIOXIN, TETRAMETHYL LEAD, AND OTHER TOXIC INDUSTRIAL RESIDUES.


THESE DRUMS OF POISON HAVE BEEN RUSTING SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS DEEP FOR DECADES...
THEY'RE SO EATEN BY CORROSION THAT THE W.C.P.E.* HAS DECIDED TO EMPTY THE HOLDS TO PREVENT A TERRIBLE ECOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE...
BUT AS IT'S VERY DANGEROUS WORK, THEY DO IT WITH CONVICTS.
DESPITE PROTECTION, MANY OF THEM DIE FROM CONTAMINATION BY THE PRODUCTS THEY HANDLE.
WHY DON'T THEY RUN AWAY?
IMPOSSIBLE... THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE DROPS TO MINUS 60° AND THE NEAREST VILLAGE IS A HUNDRED MILES AWAY. THE FEW YOU HAVE TRIED...

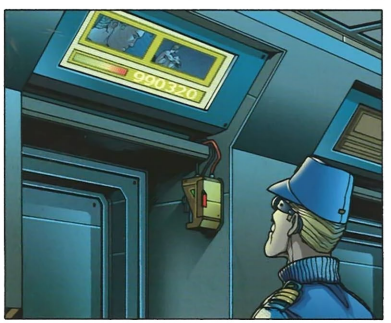
* WORLD COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT (W.C.P.E.)


...ALL DIED OF THE COLD. THEY FOUND THEIR FROZEN CORPSES HALF DEVOURED BY BEARS!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I READ IT IN A BOOK I DOWNLOADED.
♫
?!
HELLO?... IT'S ME... I WANT AN UPDATE... WHERE ARE WE SINCE MY LAST CALL?... DID YOU DO WHAT I ASKED?
NO, NOT YET. I'M WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO KILL HIM.
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT!... I NEED IT DONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!... I'LL GIVE YOU TWO DAYS, AND NOT A MINUTE MORE!... OTHERWISE, I'LL RELEASE THE PHOTOS TO THE MEDIA!
N... NO!... DON'T DO THAT, I BEG YOU!... WHAT?... YES, YES, OKAY!... IN TWO DAYS, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!


WHAT PHOTOS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THEY WERE TAKEN WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE DURING A TRIP TO MANILA. HE ENJOYS SEX TOURISM.


YOU... YOU MEAN THAT BASTARD IS A PEDOPHILE?
LOOKING AT THE PHOTOS IN QUESTION, THERE'S NO DOUBT... IF THEY REACH THE MEDIA, HE'LL END UP IN JAIL OR, WORSE, HIS OWN DISCIPLINARY PRISON.

THAT'S WHY HE'S SO ANXIOUS TO RECOVER THEM... HE'S WILLING TO DO ANYTHING, EVEN KILL DETAINEE 990320 AS ORDERED.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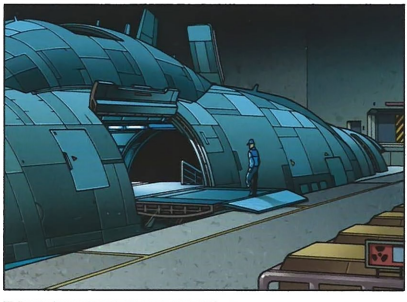
DANGER
RESTRICTED
AREA

WHO GOES THERE?... ANSWER OR I SHOOT!

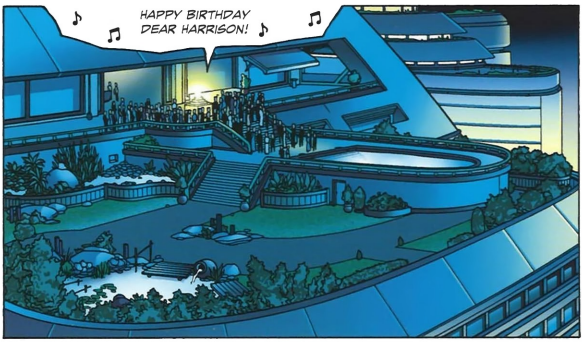
AH, IT'S YOU, SIR!... SORRY, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU FROM AFAR.
I CAN'T SLEEP AND I'M OUT OF CIGARS.

I THINK I LEFT A BOX ON THE SUBMARINE... LET ME GO CHECK.
YES, SIR.



ARTIC ZONE PEMIER FLEET
SUBMARINE SQUAD

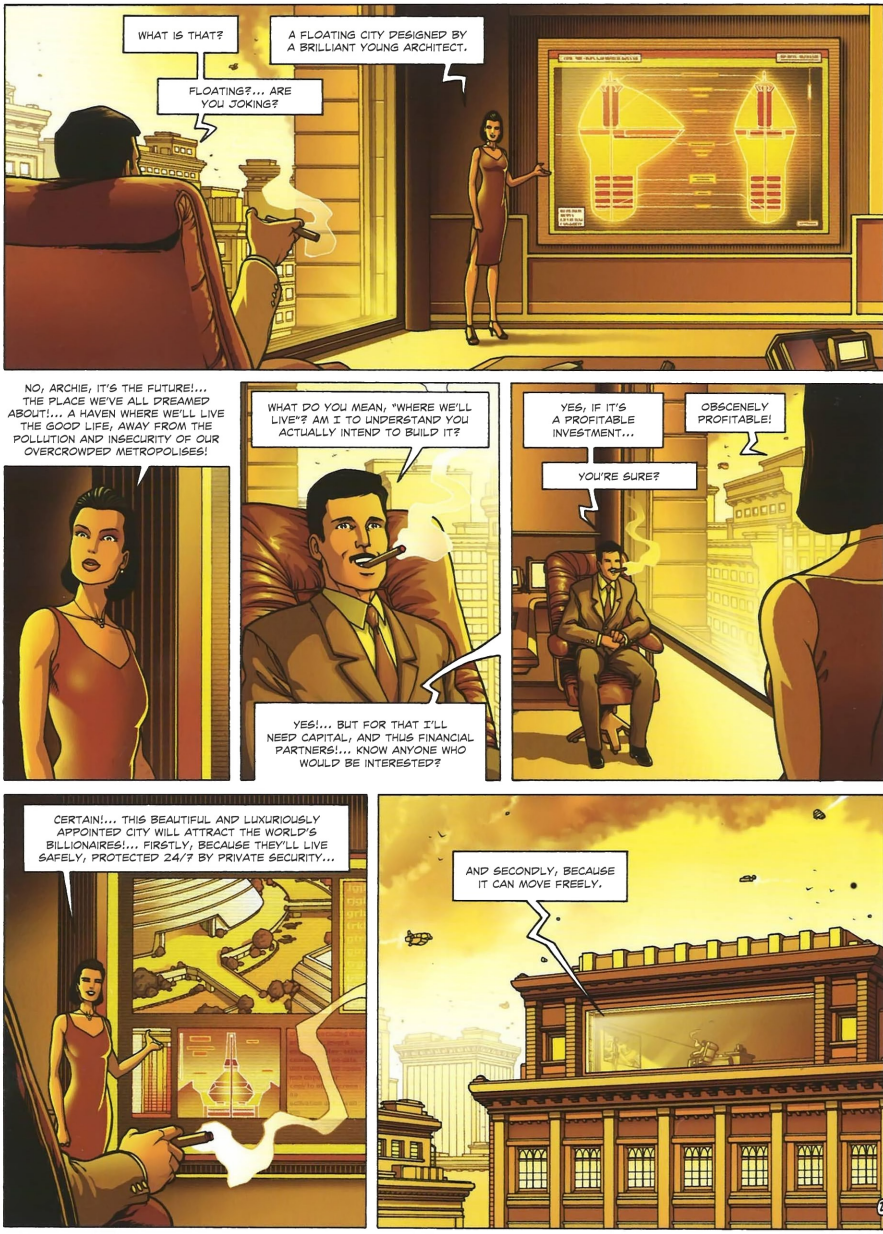
♪ HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU... ♫

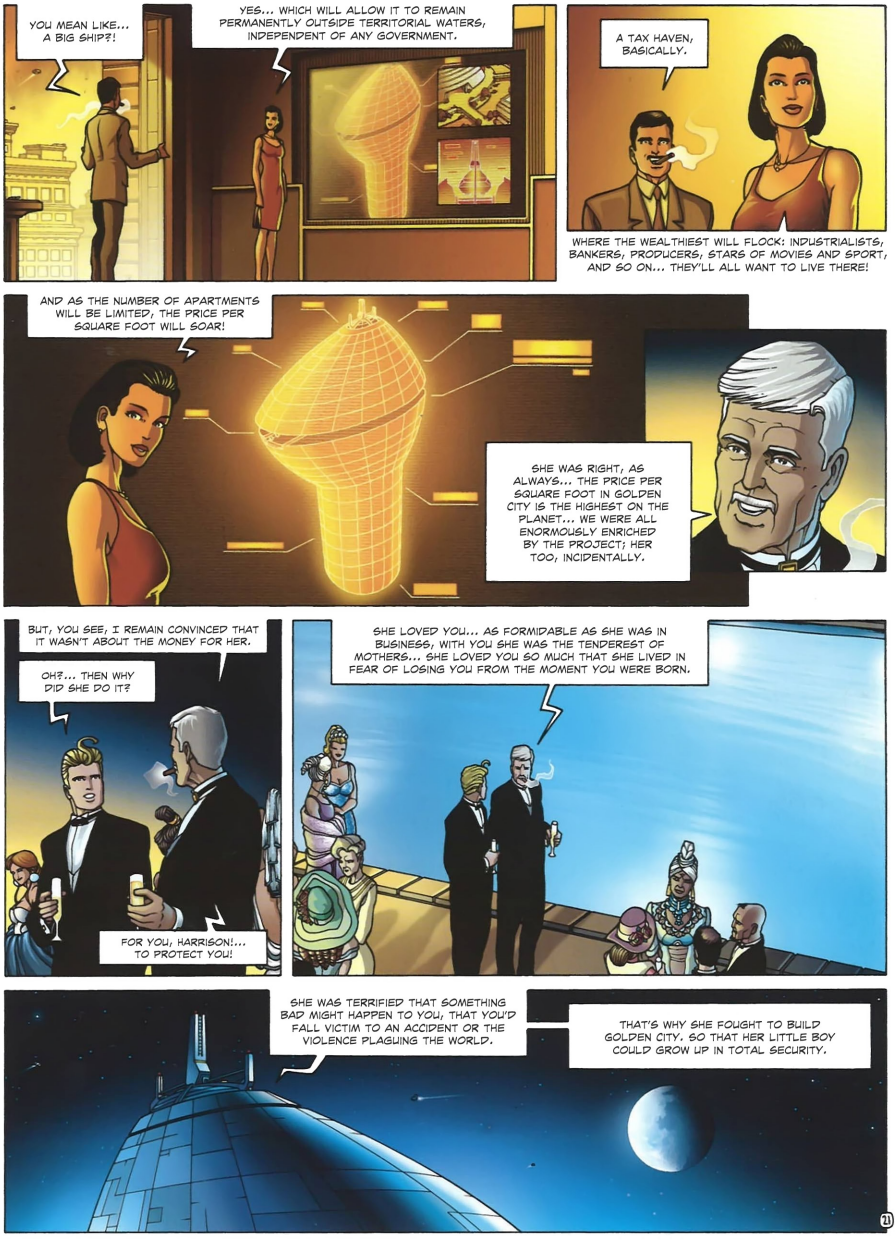

♪ HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR HARRISON! ♫

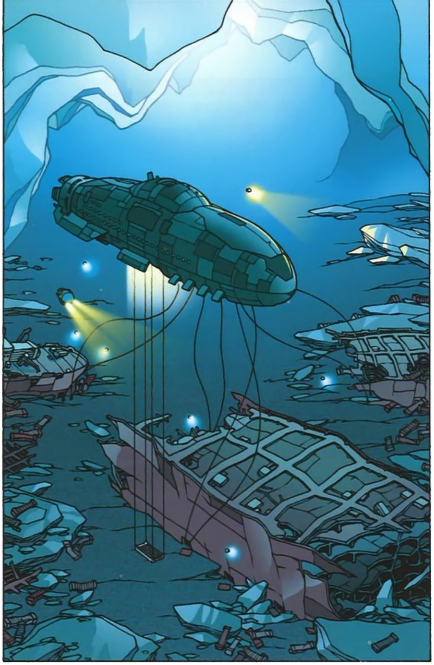
DO YOU THINK WE COULD GET A KISS TOO?
I VERY MUCH DOUBT IT... JESSICA IS TERRIBLY JEALOUS... SINCE MARRYING BANKS, SHE WON'T LET ANOTHER WOMAN GET WITHIN A METER OF HIM.

THANK YOU ALL FOR SHARING THIS EVENING WITH US, MY FRIENDS!... I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE SOME BIG NEWS: I HAVE DECIDED TO PUT MYSELF FORWARD AS A CANDIDATE IN THE NEXT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.
BRAVO!... BRAVO!
BRAVO!
BRAVO!

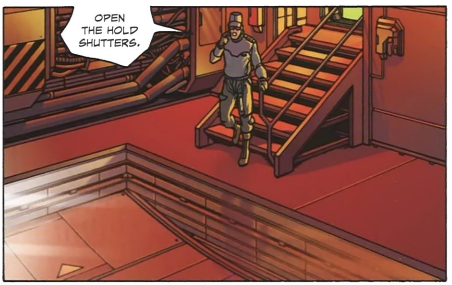
I'LL VOTE FOR YOU, MY DEAR HARRISON, AND I'M NOT ALONE... THERE ARE MANY WHO THINK YOU WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT MAYOR... NOT SO, ARCHIE?
INDEED!... WE NEED A MAN LIKE YOU TO RUN THIS CITY: HONORABLE AND DYNAMIC... TWO QUALITIES YOU INHERITED FROM YOUR MOTHER.
SHE WAS A TRULY EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN WHOM I ADMIRED A GREAT DEAL, YOU KNOW... SHE HAD AN INNATE BUSINESS SENSE AND AN UNCOMMON STRENGTH OF CHARACTER THAT ALLOWED HER TO OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE.
SHE WAS, MOREOVER, INNOVATIVE... ALWAYS AHEAD OF HER TIME... WITHOUT HER, GOLDEN CITY WOULD NEVER HAVE EXISTED... I STILL REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME SHE TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
IT WAS IN MY OFFICE ON WALL STREET, THIRTY YEARS AGO... SHE WAS ALREADY RUNNING THE BANKS GROUP AT THE TIME...
ARCHIE, OLD BOY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY?
IT'S EVERY BANKER'S WISH, MY DEAR!
THEN WATCH THIS!

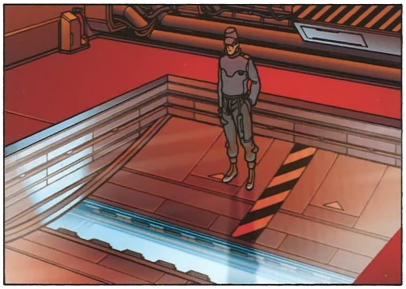

WHAT IS THAT?
A FLOATING CITY DESIGNED BY A BRILLIANT YOUNG ARCHITECT.
FLOATING?... ARE YOU JOKING?
NO, ARCHIE, IT'S THE FUTURE!... THE PLACE WE'VE ALL DREAMED ABOUT!... A HAVEN WHERE WE'LL LIVE THE GOOD LIFE, AWAY FROM THE POLLUTION AND INSECURITY OF OUR OVERCROWDED METROPOLISES!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHERE WE'LL LIVE"? AM I TO UNDERSTAND YOU ACTUALLY INTEND TO BUILD IT?
YES!... BUT FOR THAT I'LL NEED CAPITAL, AND THUS FINANCIAL PARTNERS!... KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED?
YES, IF IT'S A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT...
OBSCENELY PROFITABLE!
YOU'RE SURE?
CERTAIN!... THIS BEAUTIFUL AND LUXURIOUSLY APPOINTED CITY WILL ATTRACT THE WORLD'S BILLIONAIRES!... FIRSTLY, BECAUSE THEY'LL LIVE SAFELY, PROTECTED 24/7 BY PRIVATE SECURITY...
AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE IT CAN MOVE FREELY.


YOU MEAN LIKE... A BIG SHIP?!
YES... WHICH WILL ALLOW IT TO REMAIN PERMANENTLY OUTSIDE TERRITORIAL WATERS, INDEPENDENT OF ANY GOVERNMENT.
A TAX HAVEN, BASICALLY.
WHERE THE WEALTHIEST WILL FLOCK: INDUSTRIALISTS, BANKERS, PRODUCERS, STARS OF MOVIES AND SPORT, AND SO ON... THEY'LL ALL WANT TO LIVE THERE!
AND AS THE NUMBER OF APARTMENTS WILL BE LIMITED, THE PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT WILL SOAR!
SHE WAS RIGHT, AS ALWAYS... THE PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT IN GOLDEN CITY IS THE HIGHEST ON THE PLANET... WE WERE ALL ENORMOUSLY ENRICHED BY THE PROJECT; HER TOO, INCIDENTALLY.
BUT, YOU SEE, I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT IT WASN'T ABOUT THE MONEY FOR HER.
OH?... THEN WHY DID SHE DO IT?
FOR YOU, HARRISON!... TO PROTECT YOU!
SHE LOVED YOU... AS FORMIDABLE AS SHE WAS IN BUSINESS, WITH YOU SHE WAS THE TENDEREST OF MOTHERS... SHE LOVED YOU SO MUCH THAT SHE LIVED IN FEAR OF LOSING YOU FROM THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN.
SHE WAS TERRIFIED THAT SOMETHING BAD MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU, THAT YOU'D FALL VICTIM TO AN ACCIDENT OR THE VIOLENCE PLAGUING THE WORLD.
THAT'S WHY SHE FOUGHT TO BUILD GOLDEN CITY. SO THAT HER LITTLE BOY COULD GROW UP IN TOTAL SECURITY.



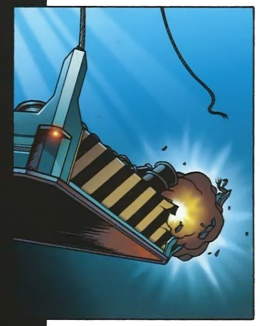
SHOULD WE RAISE THE CARRIER, SIR?
NOT BEFORE MY SIGNAL... I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT'S FULL FIRST.


OPEN THE HOLD SHUTTERS.

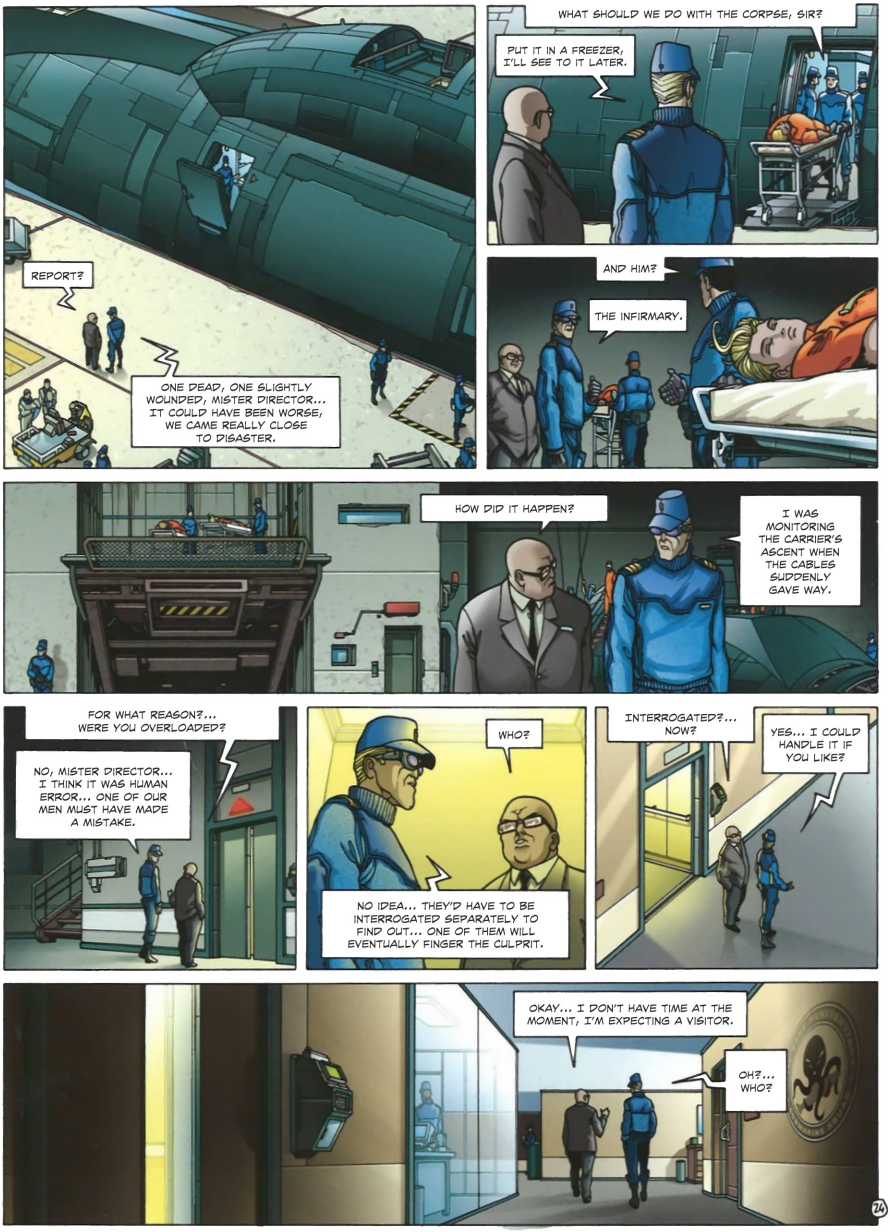


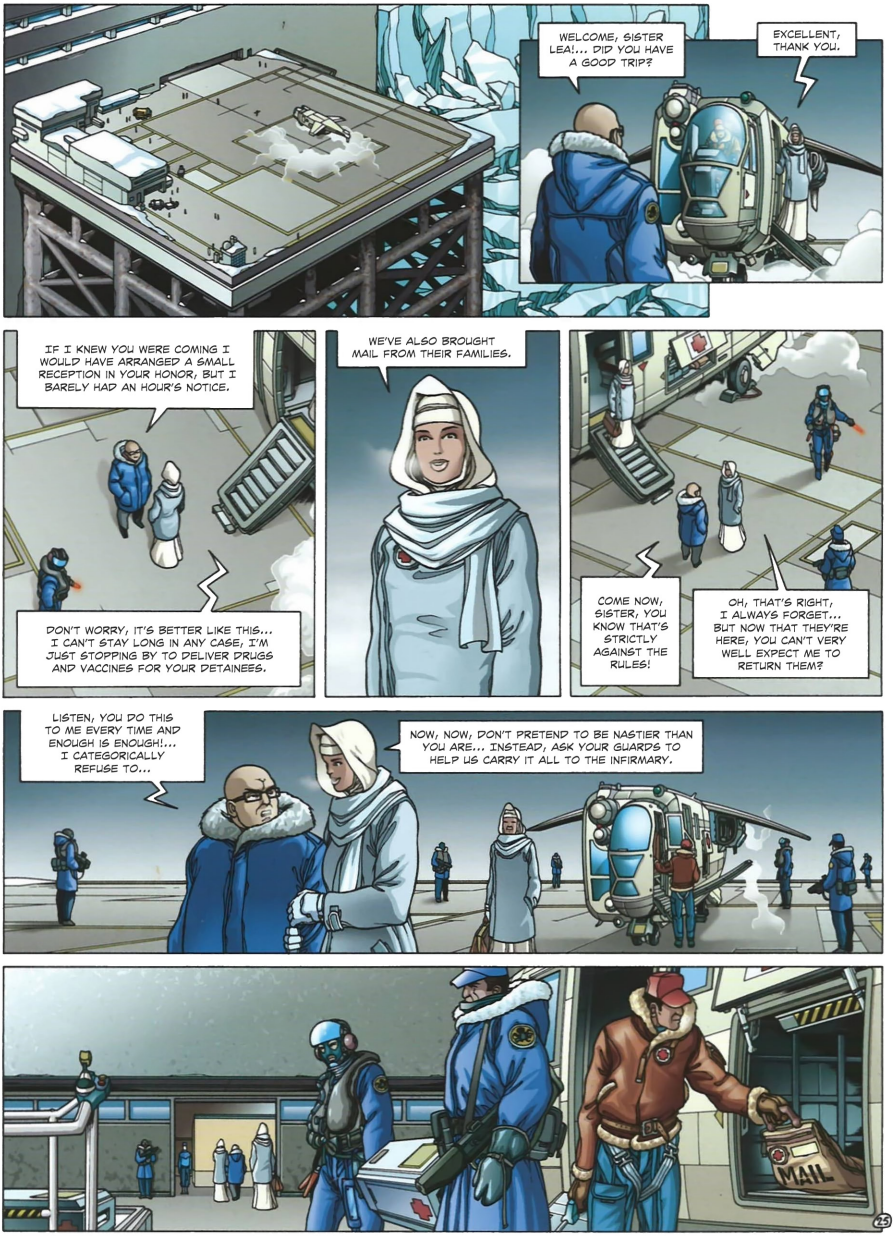
OK, IT'S FULL... YOU CAN HAUL IT UP!
22

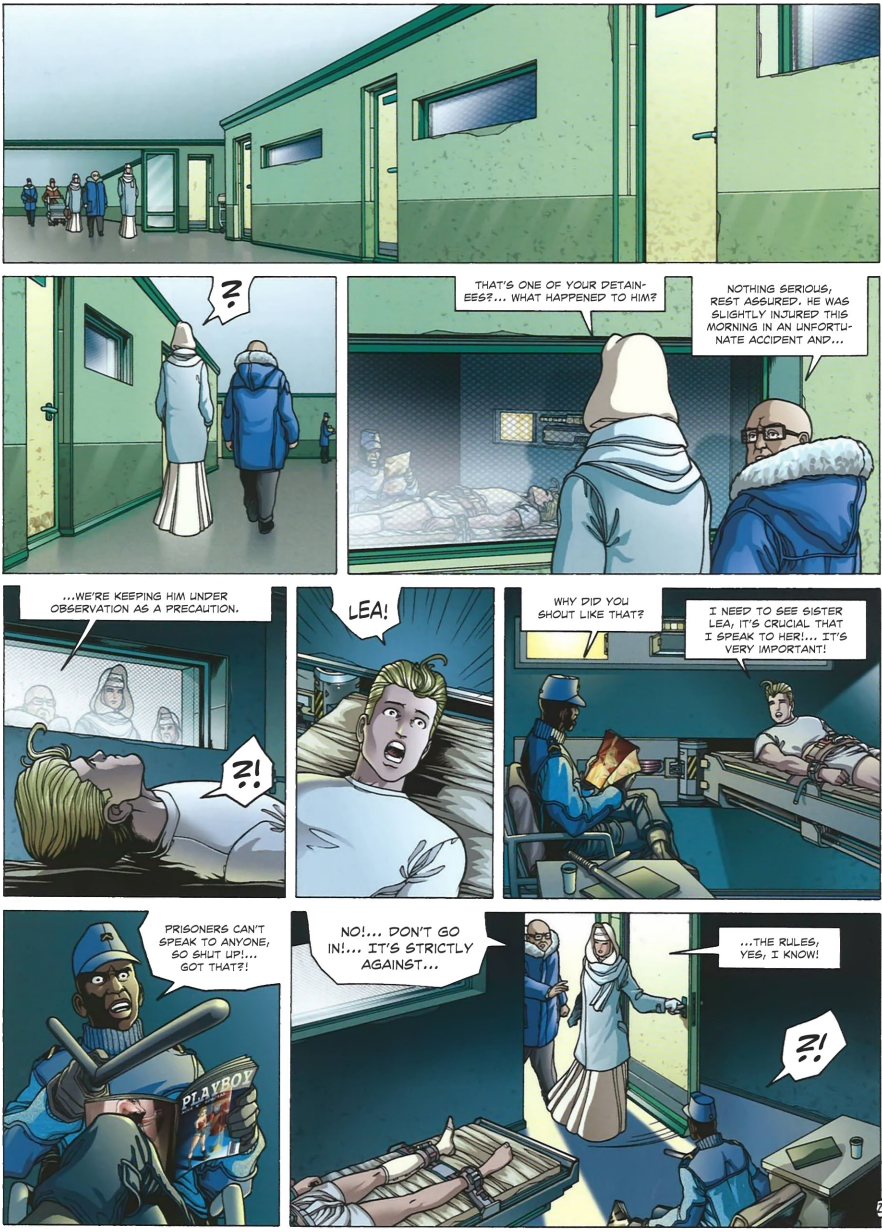
NOW!

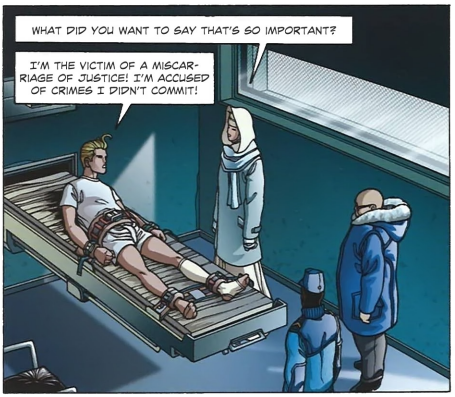


?!
LOOK OUT!
?!
DENZEL!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?... WHY DID THE CABLES BREAK?
WE DON'T KNOW, SIR!
WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT HAPPENED!
YOU MUST'VE LOST CONTROL, YOU BUNCH OF SCREW-UPS! IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION!
23
WE DIDN'T, SIR, I SWEAR!...
QUIET!... WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER!... BRING THEM UP, WE'RE RETURNING TO BASE!


REPORT?
ONE DEAD, ONE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED, MISTER DIRECTOR... IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE, WE CAME REALLY CLOSE TO DISASTER.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE CORPSE, SIR?
PUT IT IN A FREEZER, I'LL SEE TO IT LATER.
AND HIM?
THE INFIRMARY.
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
I WAS MONITORING THE CARRIER'S ASCENT WHEN THE CABLES SUDDENLY GAVE WAY.
FOR WHAT REASON?... WERE YOU OVERLOADED?
NO, MISTER DIRECTOR... I THINK IT WAS HUMAN ERROR... ONE OF OUR MEN MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.
WHO?
NO IDEA... THEY'D HAVE TO BE INTERROGATED SEPARATELY TO FIND OUT... ONE OF THEM WILL EVENTUALLY FINGER THE CULPRIT.
INTERROGATED?... NOW?
YES... I COULD HANDLE IT IF YOU LIKE?
OKAY... I DON'T HAVE TIME AT THE MOMENT, I'M EXPECTING A VISITOR.
OH?... WHO?

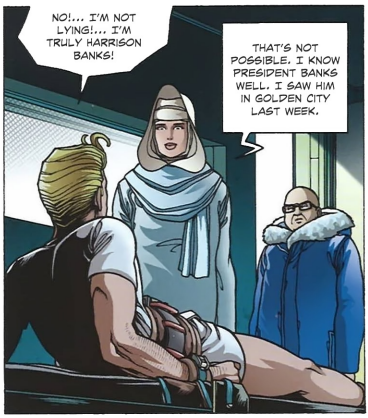

WELCOME, SISTER LEA!... DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TRIP?
EXCELLENT, THANK YOU.
IF I KNEW YOU WERE COMING I WOULD HAVE ARRANGED A SMALL RECEPTION IN YOUR HONOR, BUT I BARELY HAD AN HOUR'S NOTICE.
DON'T WORRY, IT'S BETTER LIKE THIS... I CAN'T STAY LONG IN ANY CASE, I'M JUST STOPPING BY TO DELIVER DRUGS AND VACCINES FOR YOUR DETAINEES.
WE'VE ALSO BROUGHT MAIL FROM THEIR FAMILIES.
COME NOW, SISTER, YOU KNOW THAT'S STRICTLY AGAINST THE RULES!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, I ALWAYS FORGET... BUT NOW THAT THEY'RE HERE, YOU CAN'T VERY WELL EXPECT ME TO RETURN THEM?
LISTEN, YOU DO THIS TO ME EVERY TIME AND ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!... I CATEGORICALLY REFUSE TO...
NOW, NOW, DON'T PRETEND TO BE NASTIER THAN YOU ARE... INSTEAD, ASK YOUR GUARDS TO HELP US CARRY IT ALL TO THE INFIRMARY.
MAIL

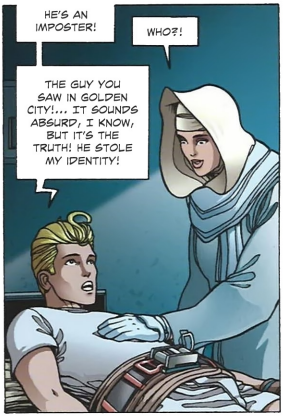

?
THAT'S ONE OF YOUR DETAINEES?... WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
NOTHING SERIOUS, REST ASSURED. HE WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED THIS MORNING IN AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT AND...
...WE'RE KEEPING HIM UNDER OBSERVATION AS A PRECAUTION.
?!
LEA!
WHY DID YOU SHOUT LIKE THAT?
I NEED TO SEE SISTER LEA, IT'S CRUCIAL THAT I SPEAK TO HER!... IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!
PRISONERS CAN'T SPEAK TO ANYONE, SO SHUT UP!... GOT THAT?!
PLAYBOY
NO!... DON'T GO IN!... IT'S STRICTLY AGAINST...
...THE RULES, YES, I KNOW!
?!


WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY THAT'S SO IMPORTANT?
I'M THE VICTIM OF A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE! I'M ACCUSED OF CRIMES I DIDN'T COMMIT!

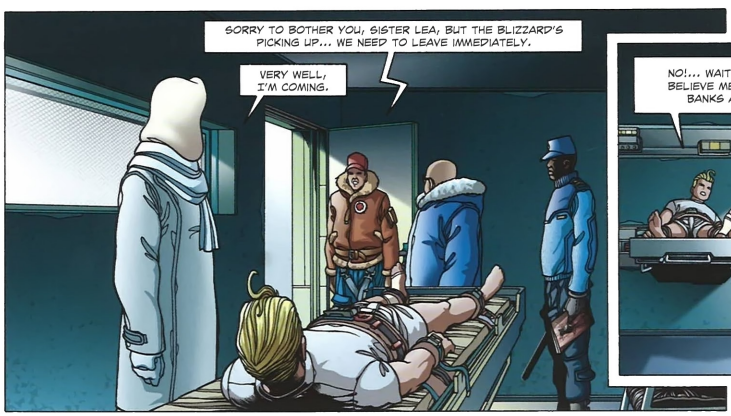
HELP ME, I BEG YOU!... TELL THEM I'M HARRISON BANKS!... YOU, AT LEAST, THEY'LL BELIEVE!
BANKS?!

DON'T LISTEN, SISTER. HE'S A MYTHOMANIAC... HE LIES LIKE HE BREATHES.

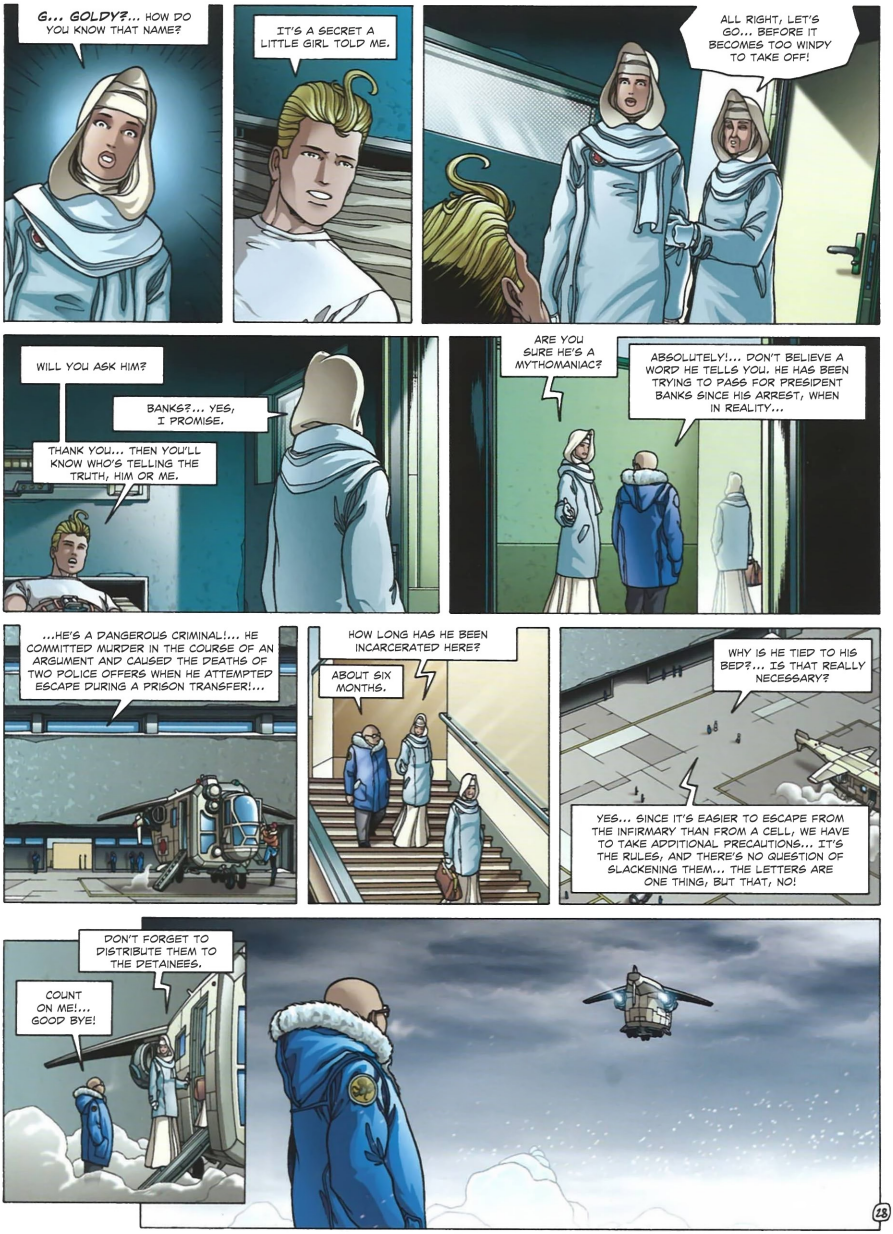

NO!... I'M NOT LYING!... I'M TRULY HARRISON BANKS!
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. I KNOW PRESIDENT BANKS WELL. I SAW HIM IN GOLDEN CITY LAST WEEK.

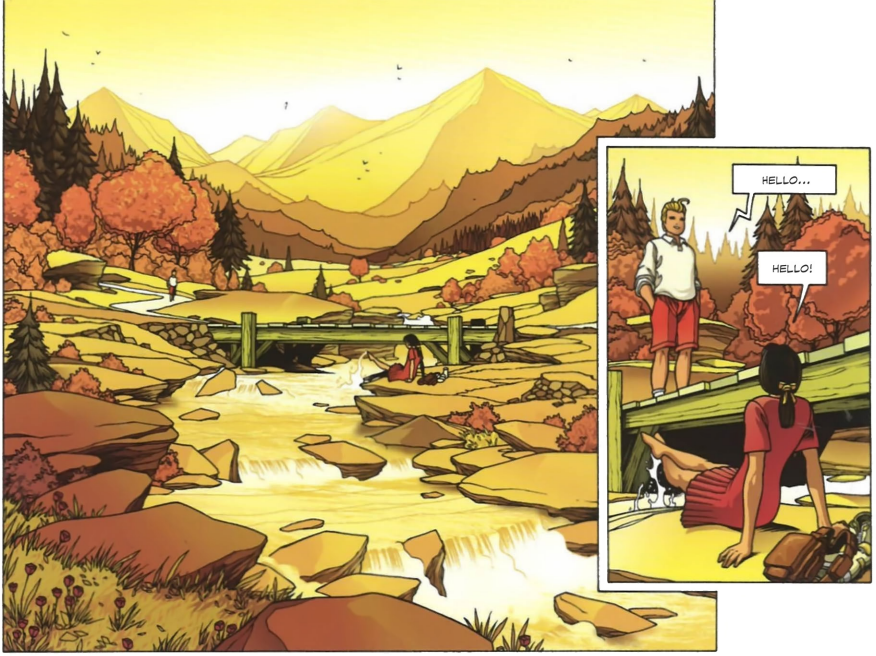

HE'S AN IMPOSTER!
WHO?!
THE GUY YOU SAW IN GOLDEN CITY!... IT SOUNDS ABSURD, I KNOW, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH! HE STOLE MY IDENTITY!

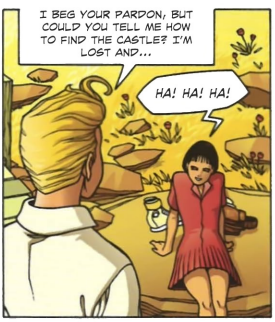
HE TOOK MY PLACE!... NO DOUBT THANKS TO THE COMPLICITY OF SOME OF MY CONFIDANTS, WHO TAUGHT HIM EVERYTHING ABOUT ME!... EVERYTHING!... DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL!... SO HE'D BECOME MY PERFECT DOUBLE AND NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT DECEPTION!

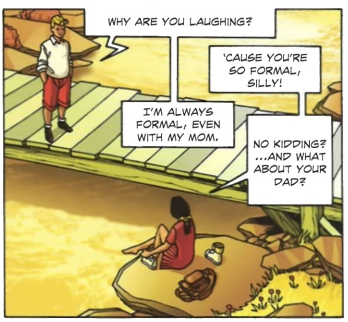

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, SISTER LEA, BUT THE BLIZZARD'S PICKING UP... WE NEED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
VERY WELL, I'M COMING.

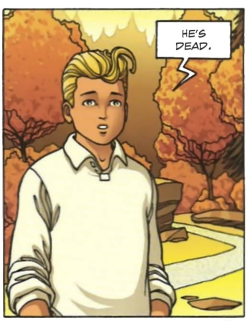
NO!... WAIT!... IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, ASK THE OTHER BANKS ABOUT GOLDY!


G... GOLDY?... HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?
IT'S A SECRET A LITTLE GIRL TOLD ME.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO... BEFORE IT BECOMES TOO WINDY TO TAKE OFF!
WILL YOU ASK HIM?
BANKS?... YES, I PROMISE.
THANK YOU... THEN YOU'LL KNOW WHO'S TELLING THE TRUTH, HIM OR ME.
ARE YOU SURE HE'S A MYTHOMANIAC?
ABSOLUTELY!... DON'T BELIEVE A WORD HE TELLS YOU. HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO PASS FOR PRESIDENT BANKS SINCE HIS ARREST, WHEN IN REALITY...
...HE'S A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL!... HE COMMITTED MURDER IN THE COURSE OF AN ARGUMENT AND CAUSED THE DEATHS OF TWO POLICE OFFERS WHEN HE ATTEMPTED ESCAPE DURING A PRISON TRANSFER!...
HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN INCARCERATED HERE?
ABOUT SIX MONTHS.
WHY IS HE TIED TO HIS BED?... IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?
YES... SINCE IT'S EASIER TO ESCAPE FROM THE INFIRMARY THAN FROM A CELL, WE HAVE TO TAKE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS... IT'S THE RULES, AND THERE'S NO QUESTION OF SLACKENING THEM... THE LETTERS ARE ONE THING, BUT THAT, NO!
DON'T FORGET TO DISTRIBUTE THEM TO THE DETAINEES.
COUNT ON ME!... GOOD BYE!


HELLO...
HELLO!

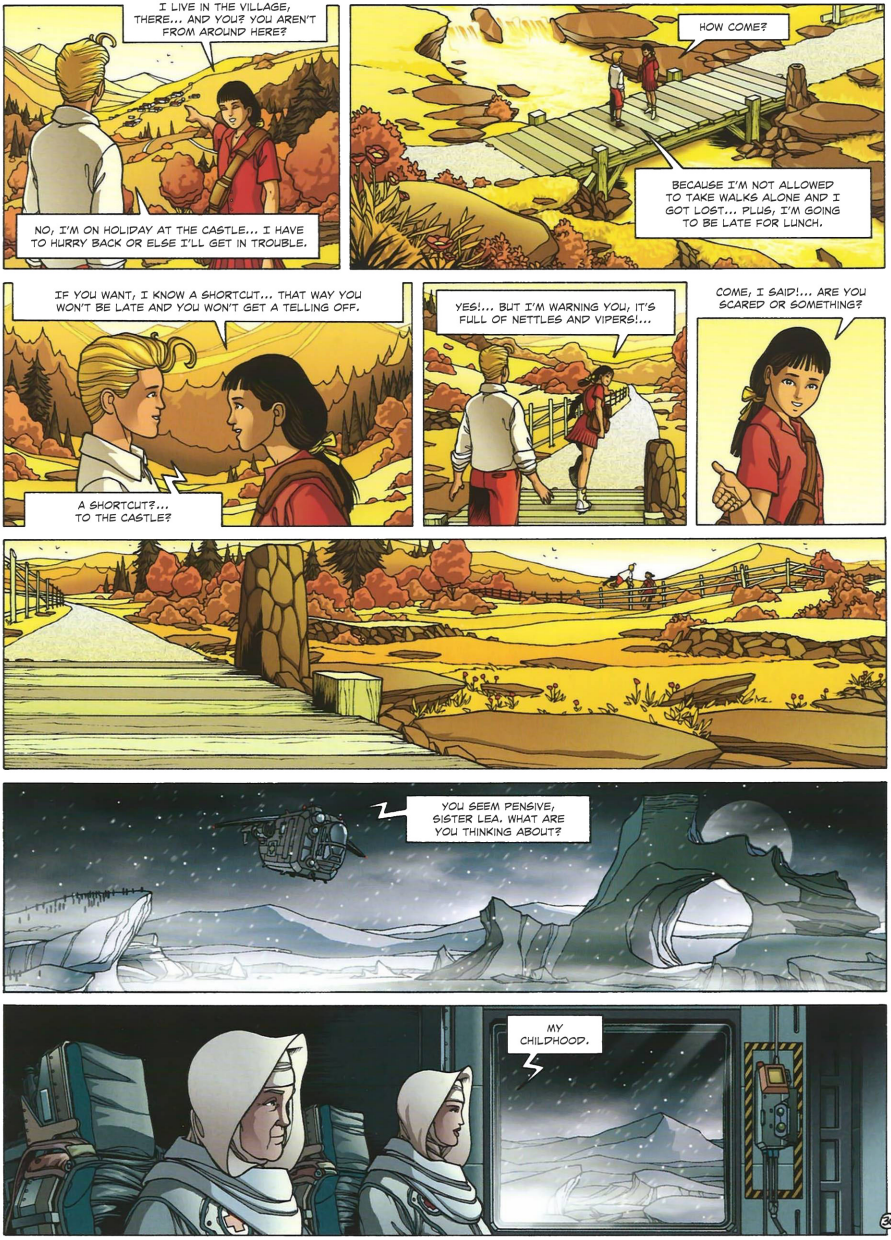

I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT COULD YOU TELL ME HOW TO FIND THE CASTLE? I'M LOST AND...
HA! HA! HA!


WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
'CAUSE YOU'RE SO FORMAL, SILLY!
I'M ALWAYS FORMAL, EVEN WITH MY MOM.
NO KIDDING? ...AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR DAD?

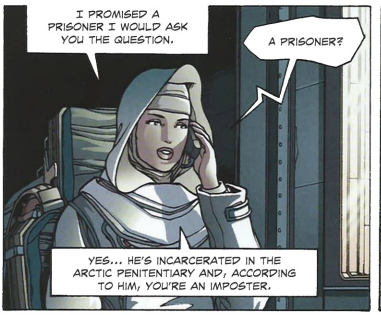

HE'S DEAD.

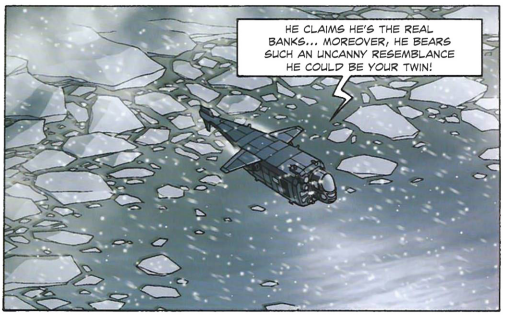
OH, I'M SORRY!... I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU; I'M SUCH A BONEHEAD!

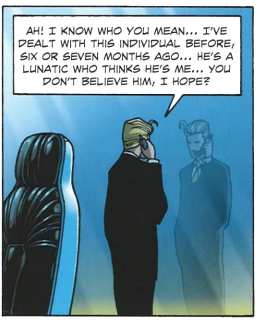
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HARRISON BANKS, AND YOU?
LEA.


I LIVE IN THE VILLAGE, THERE... AND YOU? YOU AREN'T FROM AROUND HERE?
NO, I'M ON HOLIDAY AT THE CASTLE... I HAVE TO HURRY BACK OR ELSE I'LL GET IN TROUBLE.
HOW COME?
BECAUSE I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE WALKS ALONE AND I GOT LOST... PLUS, I'M GOING TO BE LATE FOR LUNCH.
IF YOU WANT, I KNOW A SHORTCUT... THAT WAY YOU WON'T BE LATE AND YOU WON'T GET A TELLING OFF.
A SHORTCUT?... TO THE CASTLE?
YES!... BUT I'M WARNING YOU, IT'S FULL OF NETTLES AND VIPERS!...
COME, I SAID!... ARE YOU SCARED OR SOMETHING?
YOU SEEM PENSIVE, SISTER LEA. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
MY CHILDHOOD.

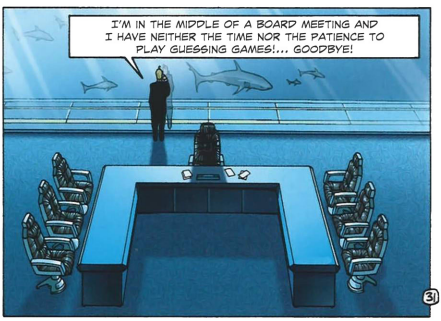
CALL FOR YOU, MISTER PRESIDENT... IT'S SISTER LEA.
HELLO?... HI, SISTER LEA!... WHAT?... DO I KNOW WHO?... GOLDY?... WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME THAT?

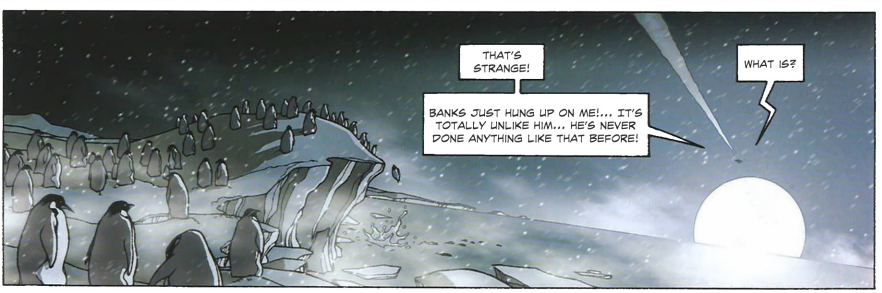

I PROMISED A PRISONER I WOULD ASK YOU THE QUESTION.
A PRISONER?
YES... HE'S INCARCERATED IN THE ARCTIC PENITENTIARY AND, ACCORDING TO HIM, YOU'RE AN IMPOSTER.

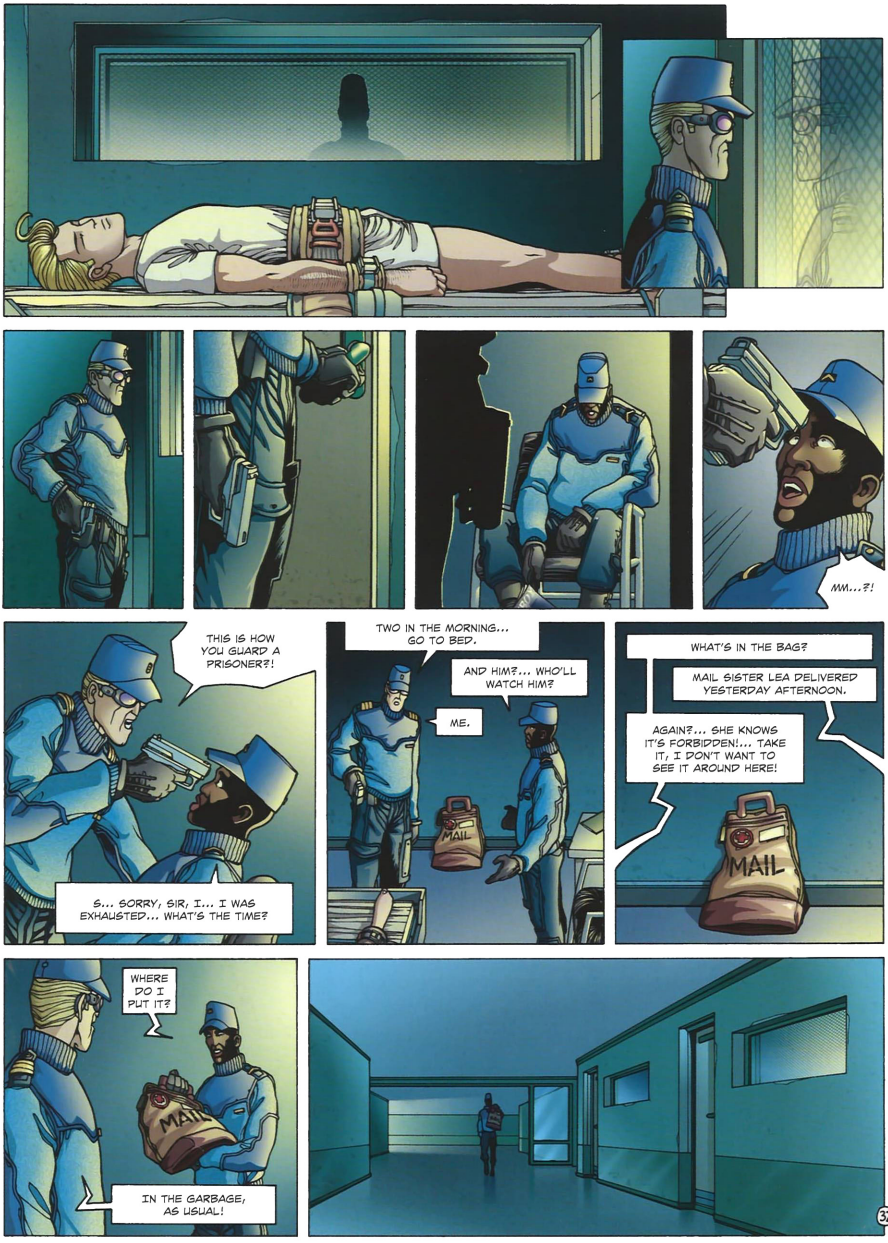

HE CLAIMS HE'S THE REAL BANKS... MOREOVER, HE BEARS SUCH AN UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE HE COULD BE YOUR TWIN!

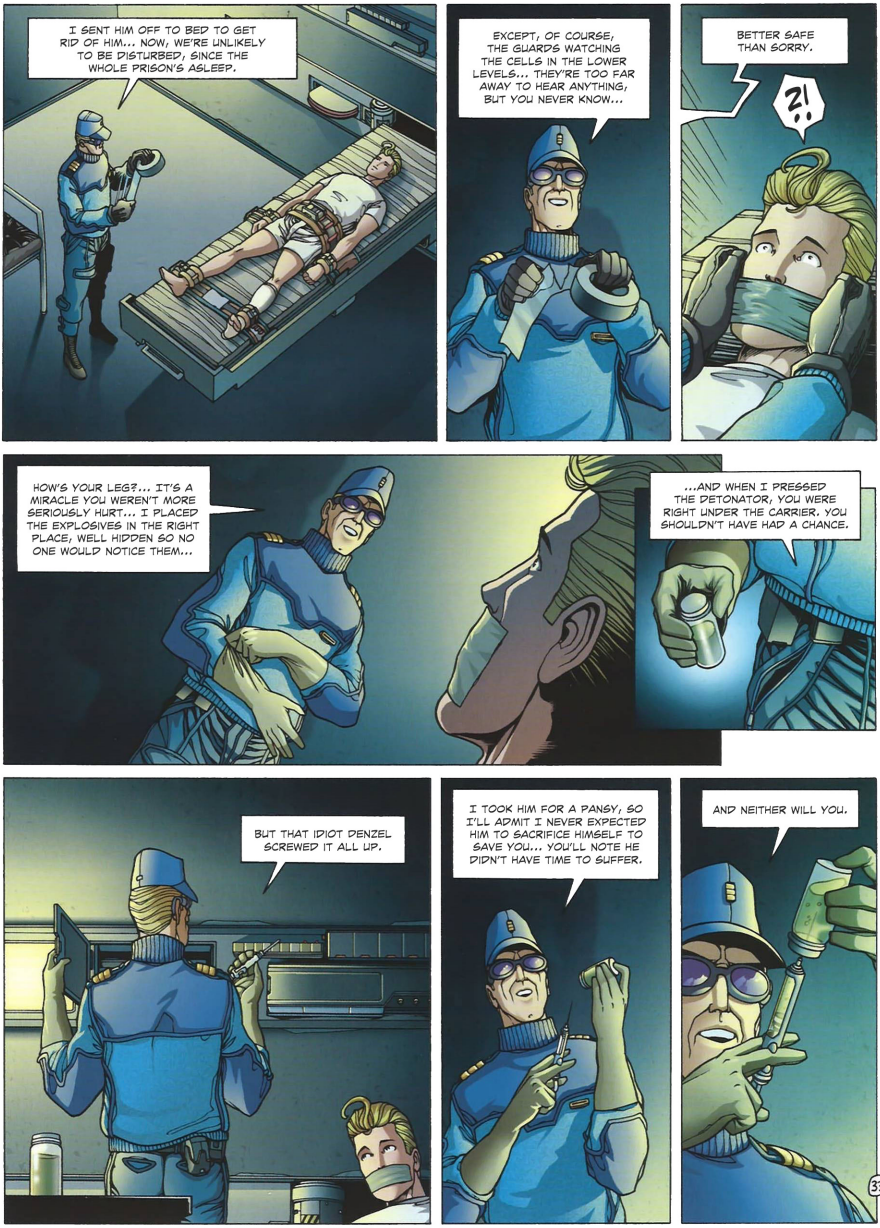

AH! I KNOW WHO YOU MEAN... I'VE DEALT WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL BEFORE, SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS AGO... HE'S A LUNATIC WHO THINKS HE'S ME... YOU DON'T BELIEVE HIM, I HOPE?

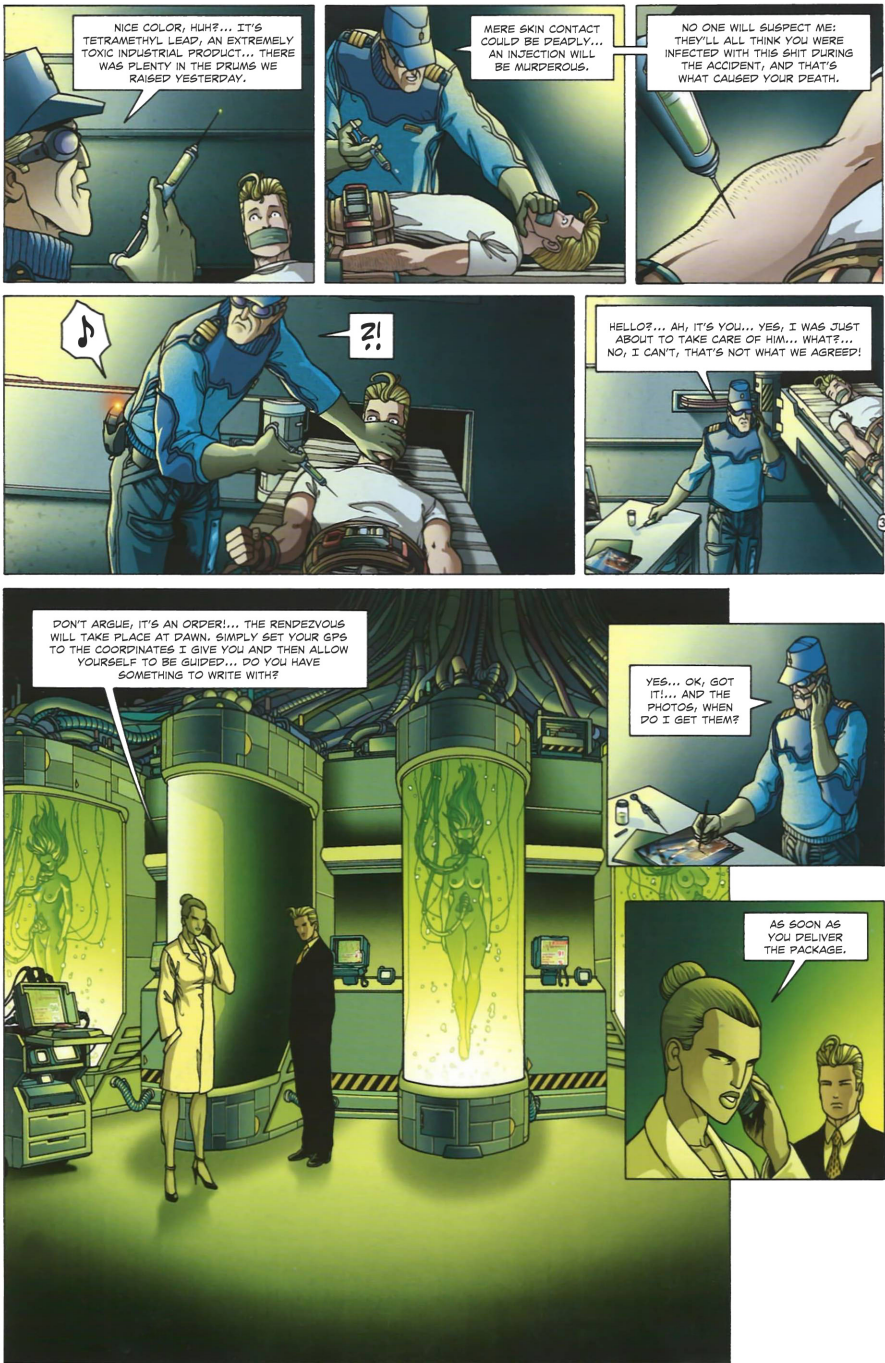
OF COURSE NOT!... BUT I'D STILL LIKE AN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION: WHO'S GOLDY?

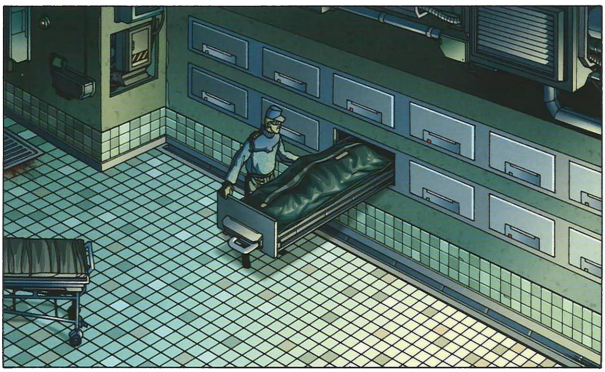

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A BOARD MEETING AND I HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PATIENCE TO PLAY GUESSING GAMES!... GOODBYE!


THAT'S STRANGE!
WHAT IS?
BANKS JUST HUNG UP ON ME!... IT'S TOTALLY UNLIKE HIM... HE'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!


MM...?!
THIS IS HOW YOU GUARD A PRISONER?!
S... SORRY, SIR, I... I WAS EXHAUSTED... WHAT'S THE TIME?
TWO IN THE MORNING... GO TO BED.
AND HIM?... WHO'LL WATCH HIM?
ME.
MAIL
WHAT'S IN THE BAG?
MAIL SISTER LEA DELIVERED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.
AGAIN?... SHE KNOWS IT'S FORBIDDEN!... TAKE IT, I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT AROUND HERE!
MAIL
WHERE DO I PUT IT?
MAIL
IN THE GARBAGE, AS USUAL!


I SENT HIM OFF TO BED TO GET RID OF HIM... NOW, WE'RE UNLIKELY TO BE DISTURBED, SINCE THE WHOLE PRISON'S ASLEEP.
EXCEPT, OF COURSE, THE GUARDS WATCHING THE CELLS IN THE LOWER LEVELS... THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY TO HEAR ANYTHING, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW...
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.
?!
HOW'S YOUR LEG?... IT'S A MIRACLE YOU WEREN'T MORE SERIOUSLY HURT... I PLACED THE EXPLOSIVES IN THE RIGHT PLACE; WELL HIDDEN SO NO ONE WOULD NOTICE THEM...
...AND WHEN I PRESSED THE DETONATOR, YOU WERE RIGHT UNDER THE CARRIER. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE.
BUT THAT IDIOT DENZEL SCREWED IT ALL UP.
I TOOK HIM FOR A PANSY, SO I'LL ADMIT I NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF TO SAVE YOU... YOU'LL NOTE HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SUFFER.
AND NEITHER WILL YOU.


NICE COLOR, HUH?... IT'S TETRAMETHYL LEAD, AN EXTREMELY TOXIC INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT... THERE WAS PLENTY IN THE DRUMS WE RAISED YESTERDAY.
MERE SKIN CONTACT COULD BE DEADLY... AN INJECTION WILL BE MURDEROUS.
NO ONE WILL SUSPECT ME: THEY'LL ALL THINK YOU WERE INFECTED WITH THIS SHIT DURING THE ACCIDENT, AND THAT'S WHAT CAUSED YOUR DEATH.
♪
?!
HELLO?... AH, IT'S YOU... YES, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE CARE OF HIM... WHAT?... NO, I CAN'T, THAT'S NOT WHAT WE AGREED!
34
DON'T ARGUE, IT'S AN ORDER!... THE RENDEZVOUS WILL TAKE PLACE AT DAWN. SIMPLY SET YOUR GPS TO THE COORDINATES I GIVE YOU AND THEN ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE GUIDED... DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH?
YES... OK, GOT IT!... AND THE PHOTOS, WHEN DO I GET THEM?
AS SOON AS YOU DELIVER THE PACKAGE.



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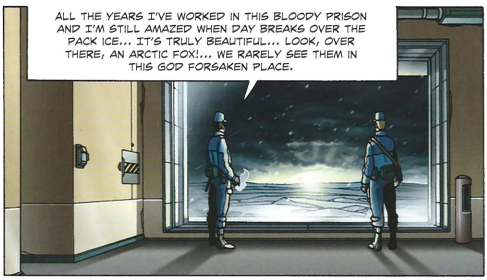
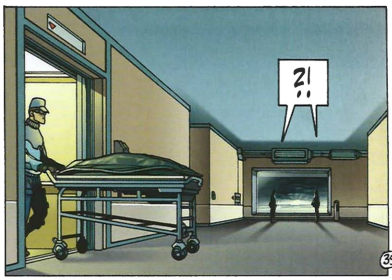
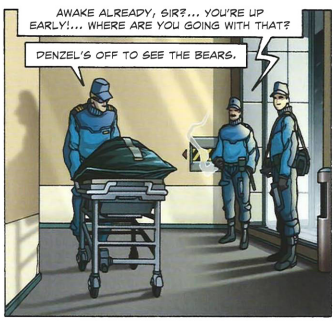
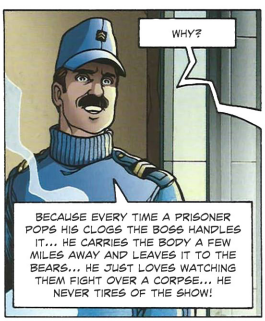
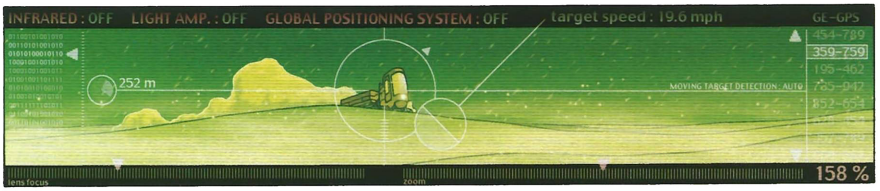

ALL THE YEARS I'VE WORKED IN THIS BLOODY PRISON AND I'M STILL AMAZED WHEN DAY BREAKS OVER THE PACK ICE... IT'S TRULY BEAUTIFUL... LOOK, OVER THERE, AN ARCTIC FOX!... WE RARELY SEE THEM IN THIS GOD FORSAKEN PLACE.

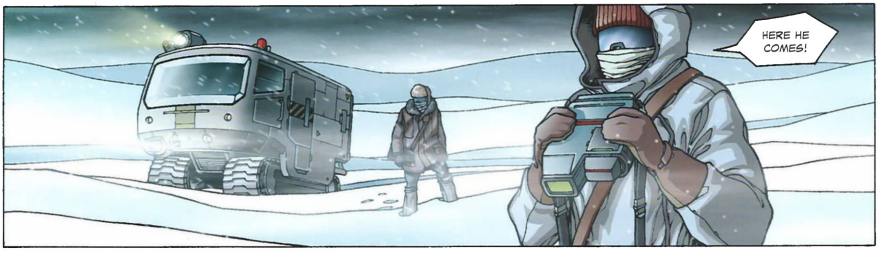

?!
35

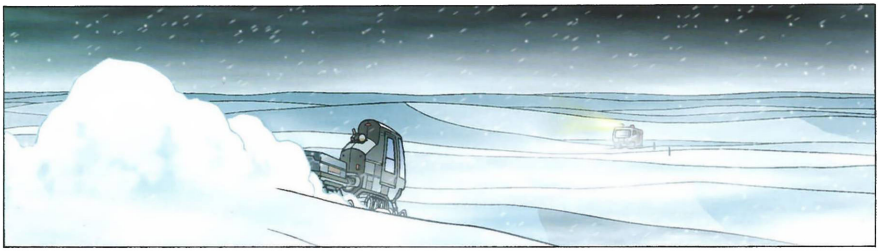

AWAKE ALREADY, SIR?... YOU'RE UP EARLY!... WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT?
DENZEL'S OFF TO SEE THE BEARS.

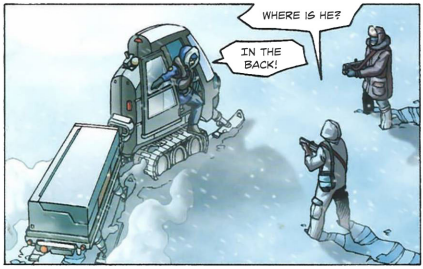
HA! HA! HA!
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?... WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE NEW HERE, OR ELSE YOU WOULDN'T ASK.

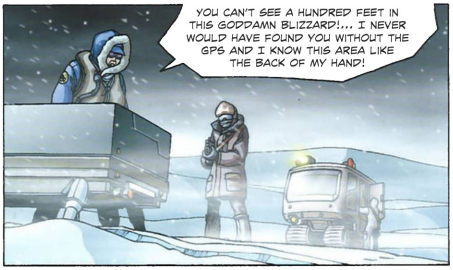

WHY?
BECAUSE EVERY TIME A PRISONER POPS HIS CLOGS THE BOSS HANDLES IT... HE CARRIES THE BODY A FEW MILES AWAY AND LEAVES IT TO THE BEARS... HE JUST LOVES WATCHING THEM FIGHT OVER A CORPSE... HE NEVER TIRES OF THE SHOW!


INFRARED : OFF
LIGHT AMP. : OFF
GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM : OFF
target speed : 19.6 mph
GE-GPS
454-789
359-759
195-462
765-947
852-653
252 m
MOVING TARGET DETECTION: AUTO
lens focus
zoom
158 %


HERE HE COMES!

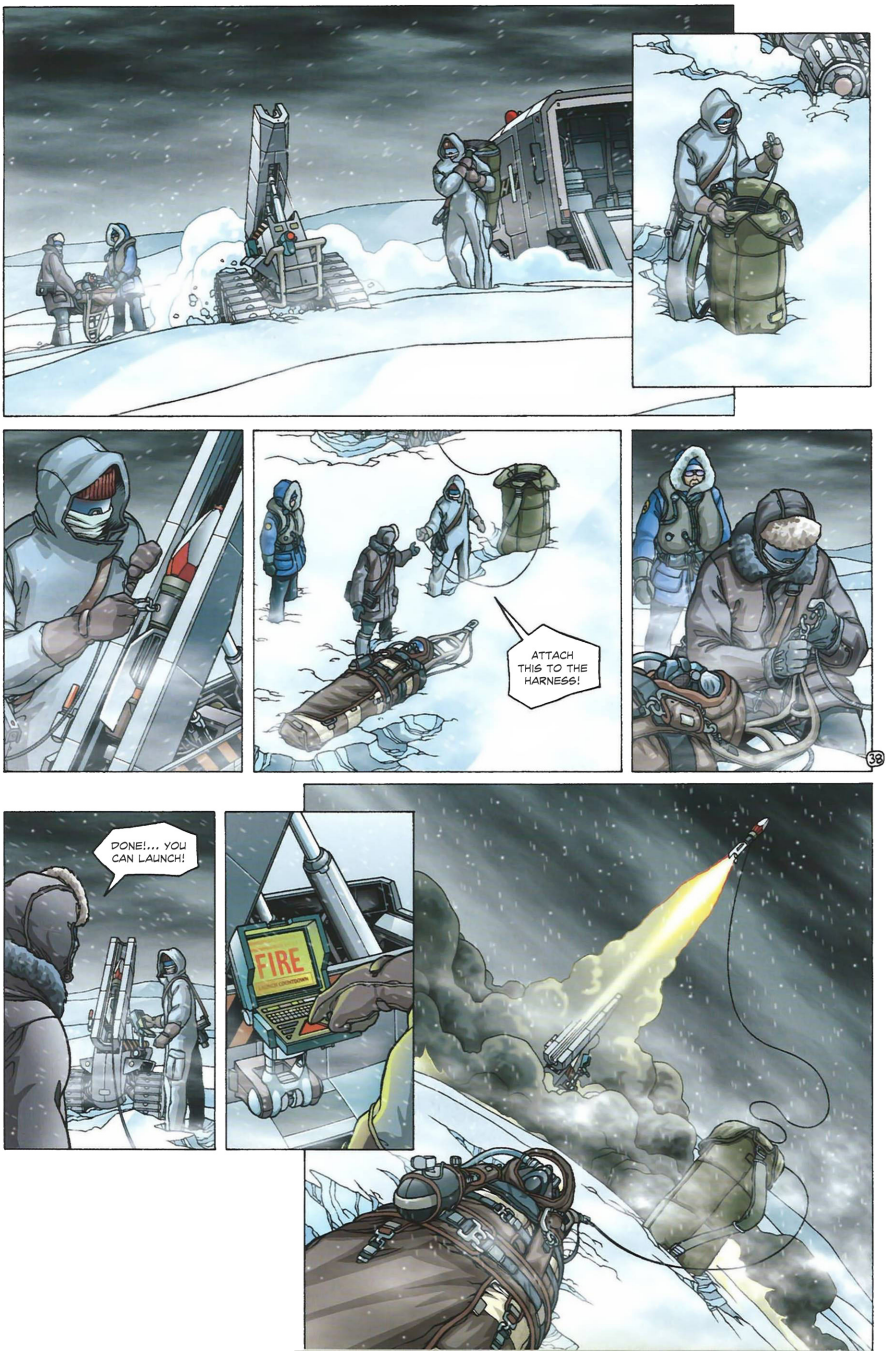


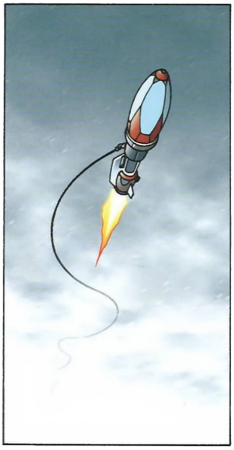

WHERE IS HE?
IN THE BACK!

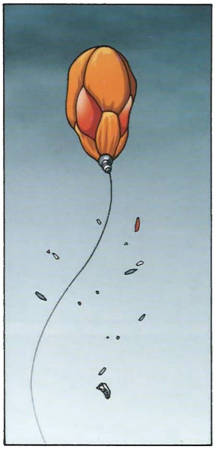
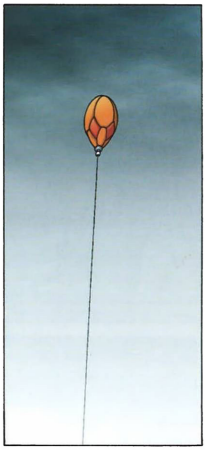

YOU CAN'T SEE A HUNDRED FEET IN THIS GODDAMN BLIZZARD!... I NEVER WOULD HAVE FOUND YOU WITHOUT THE GPS AND I KNOW THIS AREA LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND!

WHERE DO YOU WANT HIM?
IN HERE!

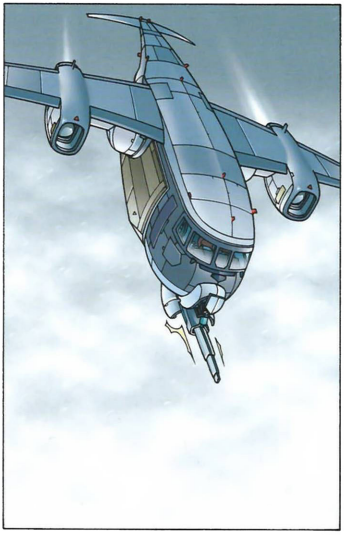
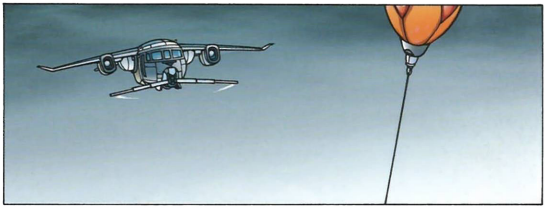
IS HE DEAD?
NAH!... I JUST KNOCKED HIM OUT TO KEEP HIM QUIET WHILE I SMUGGLED HIM OUT OF PRISON!
♪♫
?!
♪♫
HELLO?... YES, I'M RECEIVING YOU FIVE BY FIVE!... ARE YOU READY TO RECEIVE THE PACKAGE?... OK!


ATTACH THIS TO THE HARNESS!
DONE!... YOU CAN LAUNCH!
FIRE



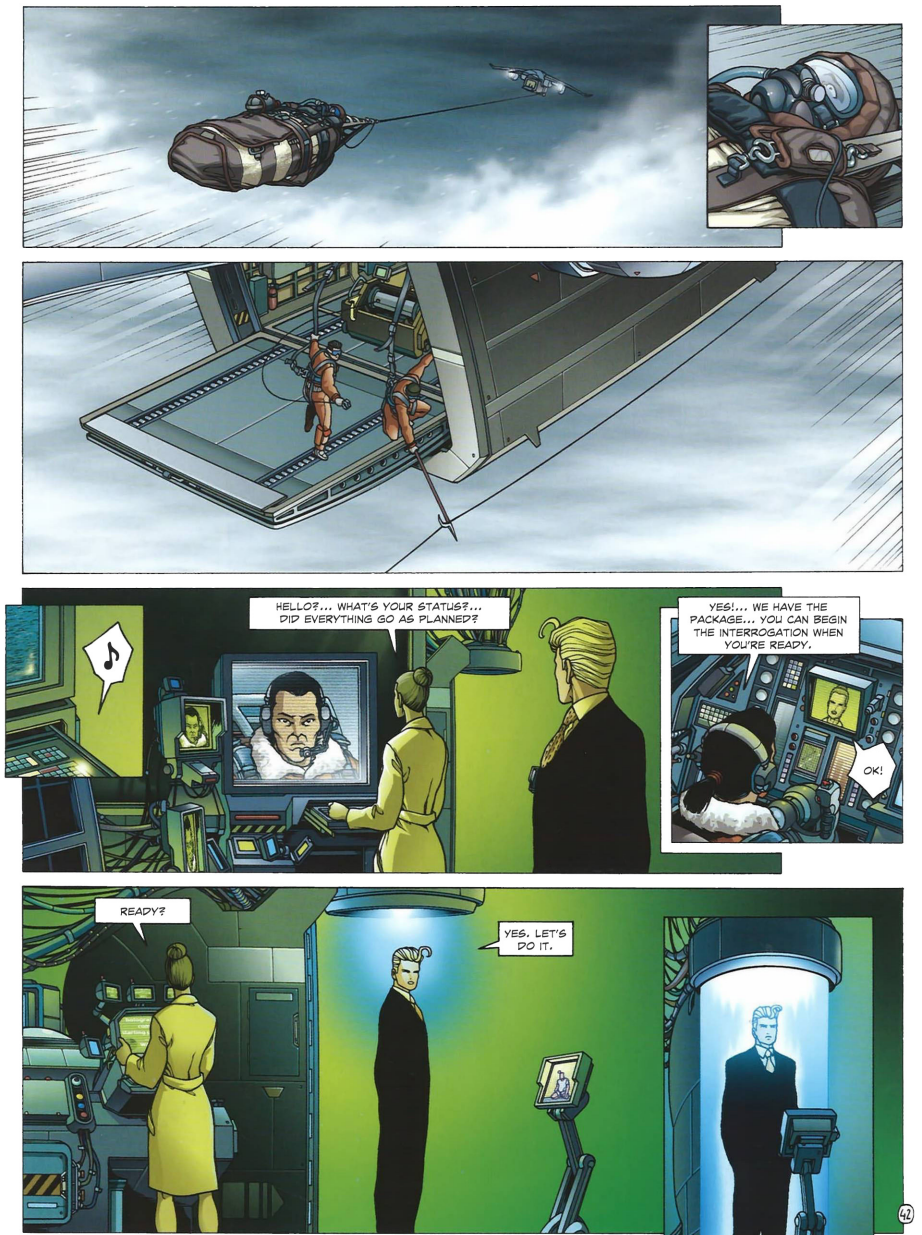



OVER THERE!
GOT IT!

WHOA! HE MUST'VE PULLED SOME FUCKIN' G!
OKAY, WE'RE OUTTA HERE!... IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO HANG AROUND!
AND MY PHOTOS?
WHAT PHOTOS?... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

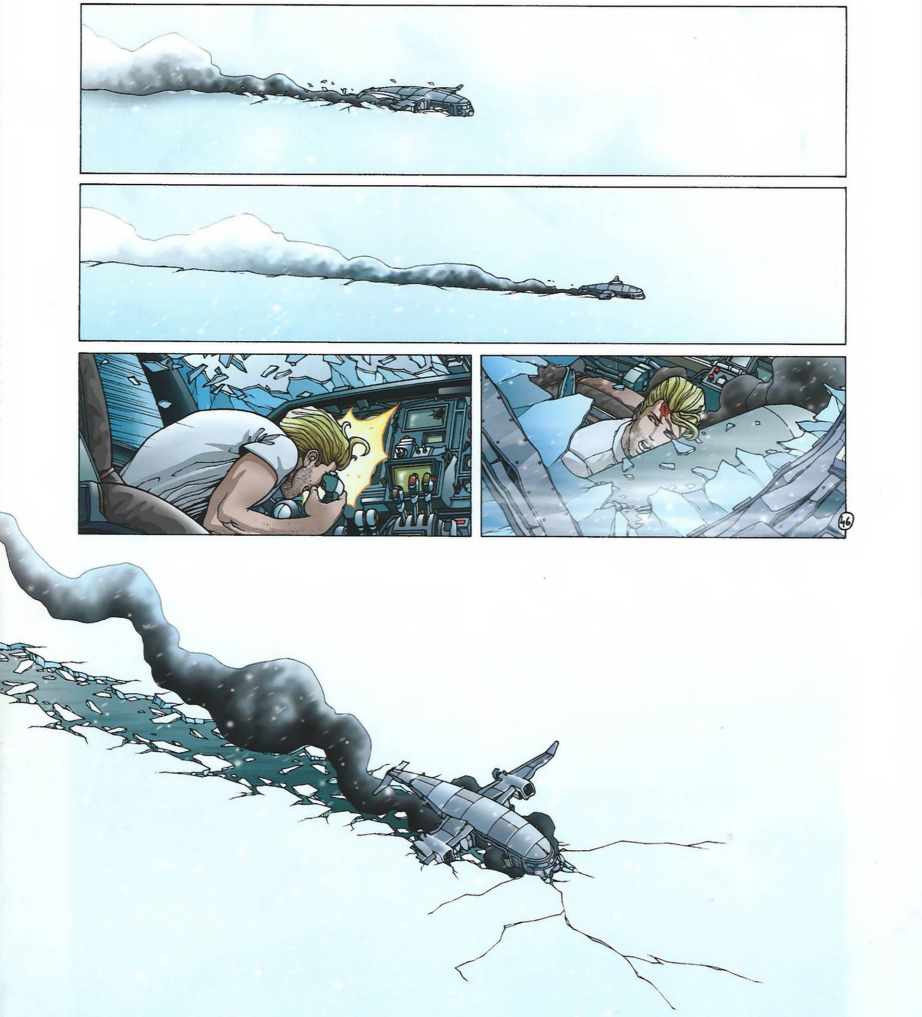
DO YOU THINK I'M AN IDIOT?!... HAND THEM OVER OR I'LL SHOOT!
?!
?!
NICELY DONE, AMBER!... GO! GO! GO!
ARH!
NOOOO!


HELLO?... WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?... DID EVERYTHING GO AS PLANNED?
YES!... WE HAVE THE PACKAGE... YOU CAN BEGIN THE INTERROGATION WHEN YOU'RE READY.
OK!
READY?
YES. LET'S DO IT.

?!
WHO IS GOLDY?
SISTER LEA KEPT HER WORD I SEE... SHE ASKED THE QUESTION.
YES!... AND STUBBORN AS SHE IS, SHE'LL ASK IT AGAIN.
AND SINCE YOU DON'T KNOW WHO GOLDY IS, YOU CAN'T ANSWER... SO YOU'RE AFRAID IT'LL AROUSE HER SUSPICION AND SHE'LL EVENTUALLY DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU... IS THAT IT?
YOU WERE EXTRACTED SO YOU COULD ANSWER QUESTIONS, NOT ASK THEM!... SO SPIT IT OUT, TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS GOLDY!
IMPOSSIBLE.
WHY?!
BECAUSE IT'S A SECRET A LITTLE GIRL ENTRUSTED TO ME.
WHAT GIRL?
I MET HER ON VACATION WHEN I WAS A BOY... I CAN'T SAY MORE THAN THAT, SORRY... I SWORE I'D NEVER TELL ANYONE.
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN FUCK WITH ME, YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!... I SUGGEST YOU SPILL THE BEANS BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER FOR GOOD, YOU DIG?!... NOW, GET UP!... YOU HEAR ME?!... GET UP!
ARH!
?!

ZI!
DANGER
CARGO EJECTION SYSTEM
BREAK THE GLASS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
CARGO EJECTION SYSTEM
WARNING
AAAAAHHHH
6.5



TO BE CONTINUED...

PECQUEUR
&
MALFIN

Genre
Adventure

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THE CHARACTERS

BANKS: The director of one of the most powerful pharmaceutical companies in the world, and husband to Jessica. Grew up in Golden City, an exclusive floating metropolis reserved only for the rich.

MIFA, APPLE, SOLO and KUMIKO: Orphans who were thrown out onto the streets. They've become a family, and live as Wreckers, plundering wrecks in the ocean depths.

•

THE STORY

Detained for six months in a disciplinary prison deep in the arctic, Harrison Banks is now nothing but a number: 990320. Desperate and alone, he has no idea that he has not been forgotten, and that there are some who continue to doggedly pursue their goal: to kill him!